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SENATOR DE LA RUA ON RESUMPTION OF FALKLAND TALKS

PY281755 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0204 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Bonn, 27 Mar (TELAM-DPA) -- Argentine Senator Fernando de la Rúa has stated in a press conference, at the end of a day of unofficial consultations with British MP's and experts, that we are taking short steps toward the resumption of the dialogue interrupted because of the stubborn attitude of the British Government.

De la Rúa led a delegation of the Argentine Council for International Relations [CARI], which held a meeting with members of the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House) of London at the FRG Foreign Policy Society in Bonn.

Argentine and British experts will meet 28 and 29 March in London at the invitation of Royal Institute, with the participation of British MP's.

Senators De la Rúa and Adolfo Gass of the Radical Civic Union will remain in the FRG until 29 March, consulting with government representatives and local politicians on relations between Argentina and the EEC, in addition to bilateral issues. The meeting has been positive, De la Rúa stated. The meeting itself has been positive, and the possibility of holding talks, at least in an academic framework, is also positive and has an unquestionable political importance. Members of the British delegation have agreed with this assessment, stating to DPA that the talks can be termed very good, and that in London they will discuss some special subjects which they declined to mention.

BOMB EXPLODES AT UCR OFFICE IN SAN MARTIN

PY282340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1916 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- The Buenos Aires Province police have reported that an explosive device of nearly 0.5 kg of trotyl went off early this morning at the front door of a Civil Radical Union [UCR] office in the town of San Martín, Buenos Aires Province, northwest of Greater Buenos Aires. The explosion caused serious damage to the building's facade and shattered the windows of nearby businesses, but claimed no victims.

In addition, the police believe that the bomb is similar to the one planted 2 months ago in front of the San Martín municipality building. The report adds that "thus far no organization or individual has claimed credit" for the bombing.

The blast occurred a few minutes before 0200 at the front door of the Tiempo de la Unidad Nacional school, which is located on Matheu Street between Córdoba and San Lorenzo Streets in San Martín.

Police sources assume that the bomb was planted by several individuals riding in a car that they used to quickly flee the scene. They do not rule out the possibility that the attack may be linked to other similar attacks that have taken place over the past 3 days.

This is the third attack in the past 72 hours against party or trade union offices since a bomb on 26 March destroyed the facade of an Intransigent Party (PI) office in Núñez and two grenades yesterday went off a few meters away from the front door of the Metalworkers Union (UDM) office in Vicente López.

PI National Deputy Raul Rabanque Caballero has linked the attack against the PI office to "the concern voiced by the military leadership on the growth of our party and fits with the publications made by the intelligence services of the military dictatorship."

For his part, Justicialist Deputy Antonio Caballero, a member of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Commission, recently stated that to date "500 attacks have been perpetrated in 1985."

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE CARRIO RESIGNS

PY311954 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Mar 85 p 13

[Text] (DYN) -- Supreme Court Chief Justice Genaro Carrio has handed in his resignation to President Raul Alfonsin, the daily TIEMPO ARGENTINO reported yesterday. Carrio, who met with Alfonsin late on Friday night, reportedly cited "health reasons" for his resignation. Carrio was said to have assured the president that his departure had nothing to do with the problem of court judges demanding higher salaries.

'SOURCES' EXPECT FURTHER DEVALUATIONS IN APRIL

PY011646 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Apr 85 p 5

[Text] (NA) -- Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille intends to kick off April with a five-percent devaluation, informed sources reported yesterday. Having carried out four devaluations of four or five percent last month, he will then reportedly try to convince the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team presently in Argentina that he has thus met their demands for a 20-25 percent devaluation.

The same sources said there would be 31 percent devaluation in the course of this month, i.e. the official exchange rate would move from \$a600 by the end of the month. However the government is hoping it will only be \$a500 [peso] while exchange house operators are expecting a price of \$a560.

ARGENTINE OFFER OF ELECTION AID BEING STUDIED

PY282030 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste has said that an Argentine offer to give Bolivia logistic support during the 14 July general elections will be carefully studied. Camacho said that the Argentine offer is very different from the one made by the U.S. Embassy.

[Begin recording] Well, there are some matters that only concern Bolivians and there are others in which we can work in bilateral, trilateral, or multilateral cooperation, depending on the issues.

The elections fall under those essential matters that are closely related to an expression of the sovereign will of a country. That is what matters.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct], Mr Minister, the Argentine offer, or the possibility that Argentina may grant technical assistance to the Electoral Court, will that also be declined?

[Camacho Omiste] Each case must be considered. One cannot generalize too much. Concerning this matter, each case must be reviewed. [end recording]

The foreign minister said that he was unaware of a note from the National Electoral Court asking the Foreign Ministry to accept the offer made by the Argentine Republic.

[Begin recording] No, I haven't seen it yet. Well, I do not, I do not personally handle all the notes that are received at the Foreign Ministry, right? [Words indistinct] Foreign Ministry, but I will find out exactly what office has it. Nevertheless, I have not seen it myself. [end recording]

This is the information gathered at the Foreign Ministry.

COURT HEAD WANTS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED

PY011845 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Jaime Daniel Ortiz, the president of the La Paz Electoral Court, has suggested that the municipal elections be postponed until 15 December 1985. He made this suggestion this morning during the ceremony marking the formal opening of the electoral registry.

[Begin recording] In view of the justified reservations and observations put forward by the National Electoral Court and by some departmental electoral courts, we suggest that the municipal elections not be held simultaneously with the national elections but in December 1985, after the institutions and the three branches of government have begun to operate with complete normalcy.

LABOR MINISTRY DECLARES RECENT COB STRIKE ILLEGAL

PY301829 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The Labor and Labor Development Ministry has declared illegal the recent 15-day indefinite general strike called by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB].

The labor ministry reported that the strike caused a loss of \$150 million. The ministerial resolution states that the COB hastily threw the workers into an indefinite strike, thus violating the provisions of Articles 105 and 114 of the Labor Law.

It adds that not only freedom and rights are necessary to declare a general strike, but that freedom also means the obligation to respect the law.

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES MILITARY FACTIONS

PY291129 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 28 Mar 85

[By Amanda Davila]

[Text] La Paz, 28 (EFE) -- Bolivian Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo today stated that the Armed Forces will guarantee the electoral process in Bolivia, adding that he hopes the elections will be won by the ruling political coalition.

The minister made an exclusive statement to EFE outlining the current political and economic status quo and the role being played by the Armed Forces and the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) currently in power.

Cardenas Mallo ruled out the possibility that there could be a successful coup d'etat with the help of the Armed Forces because, he said, there is no political movement within this institution.

He added that certain political and labor sectors claim that within the Armed Forces there is a patriotic faction which could at some date state some type of people's coup d'etat, but I want to make it clear that this is untrue.

He acknowledged, however, that there are two clearly separate factions: conservative and progressive, but he said that the latter is made up of very small groups without any influence on the leadership.

Asked about the faction to which the current Armed Forces commander in chief, General Simon Sejas Tordoya, belongs, the minister said that Sejas is an institutionalist. Cardenas told EFE that Sejas has been charged with being a politician involved with the left and also with being behind the decision to deploy troops during the general strike. Others have labeled him a right-winger, but I believe that he is an institutionalist military officer who defends the constitution.

Furthermore, Cardenas emphasized, I am convinced that the commanders of all three branches of the Armed Forces are institutionalists. During the labor conflict which seized the country, I noticed that the Armed Forces did not hesitate to carry out President Hernan Siles Zuazo's instructions amid a general consensus.

The Armed Forces are definitely committed to the democratic process, Cardenas Mallo said when explaining the attitude of certain left-wing forces which tried to get, in one way or another, the Armed Forces to assume the responsibility of taking over the government within a left-wing and revolutionary framework.

He said: I feel that the leaders grossly miscalculated, believing that the Armed Forces could sprout a progressive left-wing movement. After 18 years of military government, the military tends to be conservative.

The defense minister denied rumors about changes in military commanders. He said that there are no reasons whatsoever to take this kind of step. There are some who have been saying that there is unrest in certain garrisons. I believe that the decision to deploy troops to preserve order has awakened respect for President Siles for this display of firmness and authority. He added: I realize that before the strike the government had displayed weakness in managing its affairs.

According to Cardenas Mallo, if the next government is not of the UDP, it will make a few changes among the commanders, especially for posts which must be manned by trusted people, such as the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of the Military Household, and so forth.

He stated that if we manage to reduce inflation in the next few months, I believe that we may have a good chance of winning the elections. We feel that despite the weakening of the government and the economic and political crises we have to deal with, the middle class, the workers, and the Armed Forces spontaneously voiced their sympathy for President Siles Zuazo during the public rally held to commemorate the Day of the Sea on 23 March. The National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI) will participate in the elections, it will update its government program on the basis of the experience acquired, and it will outline its political strategy at the next national convention, Cardenas Mallo said.

According to the retired colonel and politician, the MNRI must establish its position toward the UDP which made Siles Zuazo president. He remarked that the Communist Party has been a reliable ally but the MNRI seems to have split and appears to be involved in a project of its own and has nominated its own candidates.

Cardenas Mallo ruled out the possibility of the MNRI joining in a front with the historical faction of the National Revolutionary Movement led by former president Victor Paz Estenssoro. I am quite pessimistic about this, our political positions are different, I feel that it is quite impossible. He indicated that President Siles' party hopes to recover and reorganize the UDP in order to participate in the upcoming elections.

BANZER SUAREZ DISCUSSES ADN PARTY UNITY

PY291120 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 85

[Text] The leader of the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN], Hugo Banzer Suarez, returned this afternoon to La Paz from Buenos Aires. The former president and presidential candidate in the next elections replied to a question from the press, saying that his party is not in a crisis during this period preceding the elections. Banzer said that the ADN is not divided and that its cadres are structured in compliance with the party statute. He added that the reports insinuating that such a crisis exist are false. [recorded passage indistinct]

Banzer also said that the government of the Popular and Democratic Unity was wrong in not accepting the cooperation of the United States, which offered computer equipment to use in the elections to prevent electoral fraud.

[Begin recording] All the communications media here in La Paz, -- newspapers, radio, and television -- have expressed their viewpoint in this regard, and I agree with all of them.

It seems to me that the government was wrong in rejecting the offer, because if we accept other types of cooperation, why would we not accept this one, especially when the use of the computer would have prevented electoral fraud. The ADN does not know how to tamper with balloting, and even if it did know, it would not, because that would be cheating the Bolivian people. I deplore the fact that a device that would have prevented tampering was not accepted. [end recording]

Banzer also said that the ADN will do its best to see that the elections are held on schedule as established by the legislative and executive branches.

[Begin recording] We Bolivians must do all we can to hold the elections. We are extremely interested in having these elections take place as scheduled, with no more delays, absolutely no more delays for any other reason. [end recording]

The ADN leader concluded by saying that Eduardo Vaca Guzman has resigned as electoral campaign manager for purely personal reasons.

PAZ ESTENSSORO OPENS 16TH NATIONAL MNR CONVENTION

PY300255 LA Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Former Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has stated that as long as he lives, he will never break off relations with the Bolivian people, who are now giving him their unbiased support. Paz Estenssoro made these remarks in his opening address to the 16th national convention of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], which is now convening at the Mexico movie theater. The convention is being attended by more than 1,000 delegates from various parts of the country. Paz Estenssoro harshly criticized the economic policy of the Democratic and Popular Unity government and charged that this policy touched only superficially on specific problems.

Named Presidential Candidate

PY011428 Paris AFP in Spanish 1352 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Victor Paz Estenssoro, who held the post of Bolivian president three times in the past, was officially proclaimed presidential candidate of his party, the MNR, during a convention held here today. The elections will be held on 14 July.

Declaration of Principles

PY012136 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] The 14th [as heard] MNR convention, which is named after Juan Valdivia Altamirano, has approved a declaration of principles with a view toward participating in the general elections slated for July. At the opening of the convention on 29 March, former President Victor Paz Estenssoro delivered an important speech on the Bolivian situation. In a 9-point document, the MNR made a serious evaluation of the national and international sociopolitical, economic, and cultural situation, stressing the need to adopt the nationalist revolutionary system as a political model.

The MNR stated that, if elected, it will overcome the current crisis by neutralizing its causes and by mitigating such harmful effects as inflation, speculation, smuggling, and hoarding of merchandise. The party will try to implement an emergency plan that will be designed taking into account its applicability to the prevailing situation and aiming at ensuring proper supply levels. The plan will lay the groundwork for promoting development and for reactivating the public and private sectors.

The MNR plan will also foster self-sustained, comprehensive, and liberating development, seeking a more just distribution of wealth and preservation of our natural resources. The party will also implement an energy policy that will lend full support to oil-prospecting and exploitation projects and to the development of conventional and non-conventional energy sources.

The technological revolution and its adaptation to Bolivian development needs and the promotion of the industrial sector will be two key objectives of the MNR government, the document says.

Exports shall be promoted and diversified. The MNR democratic government that should emerge from the July elections will strive to improve the living standards of all Bolivians, eradicating starvation, poverty, misery, unemployment, and ignorance. The government will promote agricultural development through the creation of agricultural industrial companies of social interest with direct and voluntary participation by peasants within new productive units, which peasants will be free to join.

The MNR government will try to improve the peasants' economic situation by designing efficient commercialization systems for their products and by supplying them with technological support, transportation, and storage facilities in meat-packing plants.

The MNR will strive to dignify the work of teachers and to provide just compensation for their efforts. This sector is going through difficult times because of the misrule and inability of the Siles Zuazo-led government of the Popular and Democratic Unity. The MNR convention also promised to improve passenger and cargo transportation in all sectors, pave more highways, improve roads, and open new roads joining all the regions of the nation.

The objective of political administrative decentralization will be achieved, thus meeting the aspirations of all departments of the Republic whose development has thus far been unheeded, the document points out.

The public administration shall be given solid support, and social benefits shall be extended to public servants, the MNR says. The MNR government will actively struggle against drug trafficking, will try to make justice more efficient, and will modernize the police.

The document also stresses the importance of the modernization of the Armed Forces, so that they can properly discharge their duty of preserving national sovereignty. The Armed Forces will be provided with the proper technological resources and with appropriate training equipment, the document states.

NEVES CONTINUES TO RECUPERATE; MEETS MINISTERS

PY011419 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Apr 85

[By Bahia Filo]

[Text] We are reporting from the Heart Institute with the technical assistance of (Ivaldo Rafael).

Friday was a day of fright for people watching closely the recuperation of President Tancredo Neves. Saturday was a happier day, and Sunday was a day of absolute tranquillity here at the Heart Institute both from the viewpoint of the hospital's activity and of the situation at the intensive care unit, where the president is recuperating.

According to the doctors, the president slept quite a long time on Saturday and woke up early on Sunday, took a bath, [word indistinct] yogurt, ate, and took therapeutic exercises.

The president is anxious to know when he will be allowed to leave the hospital. He is constantly asking the medical team when he will be released. The doctors usually ask him to have a bit of patience because his clinical condition is improving as expected and they do not want any set backs. President Tancredo Neves has patiently accepted the doctor's advice.

There were few visitors this past cold Sunday. They were Fernando Lyra, Carlos Santanna, and Joao Sayad, the ministers of justice, health, and planning, respectively, Bahia Governor Roberto Santos, and Mrs (Lucy Montoro), Sao Paulo's first lady, who announced that this week she will take one of Tancredo Neves' daughters to visit the two Sao Paulo State summer palaces. The two palaces, the Boa Vista Palace in (Campos de Atao), and the [word indistinct] florestal, were offered to the president's family to allow him continue his recuperation after his release from the hospital.

Clinical hospital superintendent Professor Guilherme Rodrigues da Silva has said that the president might be released from the intensive care unit any time, but that doctors prefer that he remain there for a few more days until he recovers completely.

Fever Develops

PY010025 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Antonio Brito has said that President Tancredo Neves is recovering satisfactorily. He stated that the president spent a good night and that at 0600 he had his first meal. Brito said this at a press conference today at 0730.

[Begin recording] The doctors have reported that the president slept well last night. He woke up shortly before 0600 and had his first meal, which was yogurt with honey and he drank some juice. Afterward, he talked with doctors.

His vital signs are completely normal, and he spent a totally calm night. [end recording]

This morning Paulo Egidio Martins, a former Sao Paulo governor, visited the Heart Institute and upon leaving he said that he feels optimistic about President Tancredo Neves' recovery. [recorded passage indistinct]

Today, President Tancredo Neves had a recurrent fever every 6 hours. However, his cardiovascular, breathing, and kidney functions remain stable.

Some of the bacterial agents that have caused the infection have been identified, according to the medical report issued this afternoon by presidential spokesman Antonio Brito:

[Begin recording] The medical team that is treating President Tancredo Neves, headed by Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, reports the following after the medical exams carried out this afternoon:

1. The president's cardiovascular, breathing, and kidney functions remain stable.
2. His digestive activity is normal.
3. His blood exams have shown no changes.

Regarding his infection, his condition is the following: Today the president has been affected every 6 hours by a fever, which was soon followed by an increase in his heartbeat and breathing:

A preventive medical analysis has allowed the identification of some of the bacterial agents that have caused the infection. These bacteria are being studied at the moment. Their conclusive identification will allow determination of the proper treatment for the infection.

The (?healing) process of his surgical scar is normal. All the changes that he has suffered as a result of the infection have been controlled. [end recording]

Fever Gone, Infection Continues

PY020132 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Medical report issued by Brazilian presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito from the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University Clinical Hospital -- recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen, the doctors have provided me with the following information for you and the public:

Right now, President Tancredo Neves is doing very well, and he is in a good mood. He is talking normally in his recovery room here at the Heart Institute.

The president does not have a fever, and his heart and breathing rates are absolutely normal. This means that, after having had some problems at the beginning of this afternoon, he is currently doing very well, as I have just said.

As I told you, the president is in his recovery room, he does not have a fever, his heart and breathing rates are normal, and he is in a very good mood. According to the doctors, the president is currently fighting an infection. However, the doctors have adopted all the proper preventive measures, particularly in the past few hours, and they are very optimistic about the possibility of achieving good results; this is to say, that the president will be able to overcome the infection in a few days and recover soon.

According to the doctors, the infection will not be overcome immediately. The president is being given antibiotics, as well as other treatment, but it will still take some time before the infection is completely cured, according to the doctors.

The doctors say that there will still be moments, as those this afternoon, during which he may be affected by a low-grade fever or some other problem or during which he may be absolutely calm and in a good mood as he is now.

At the moment, he is talking with his son, Tancredo Augusto, and with his grandson, Aercio Neves Cunha.

This is the information that the doctors asked me to give to you and the public. Thank you.

IMF OFFICIALS BARRED FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE

PY011829 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1550 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The IMF mission that is already in Brasilia will not enjoy the same facilities offered to the IMF by the previous administration. On the contrary, everything will be now directly discussed with the Central Bank, and there will no longer be ostensive parades through government house corridors. The measure was ordered by Acting President Jose Sarney, who also issued an order in connection with the Banco Sul Brasileiro affair. Reporter Carlos Rodrigues has filed this report from Brasilia.

[Begin report] Good afternoon Ferreira Martins. Acting President Jose Sarney has just ordered that IMF officials be no longer allowed into the Planalto Palace, unlike the Figueiredo administration which gave them the green light to wander through Government House. Sarney said that the foreign debt issue must be dealt with by the Central Bank. [end report]

SARNEY SAYS TALKS WITH IMF TO BE REALISTIC

PY020257 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpt] We will not sacrifice the country's development to pay the foreign debt, Acting President Jose Sarney told reporters accredited to Government House at a breakfast he invited them to this morning at the Jaburu Palace. He said that decisions regarding the Brazilian foreign debt will be made in the next 3 months.

Sarney added that the government will negotiate realistically and that there is no more room for unrealistic letters of intent like the ones sent to the IMF in the past few months.

According to Sarney, the government's proposal will be serious and will be heeded.

ARCHBISHOP FRESNO CALLS FOR MURDER INVESTIGATION

PY310242 Paris AFP in Spanish 0153 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno today called for a thorough investigation into the murder of three members of the opposition to the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet. The bodies of the dissidents were found this afternoon with their throats cut in an empty field near the Santiago International Airport after the victims were kidnapped by unidentified individuals on 28 and 29 March.

Msgr Fresno strongly condemned the despicable crime and asked the Lord to help us illuminate the consciences of those who believe that violence and murder are the way to impose their ideas. Fresno asked officials to carry out a thorough and prompt investigation into this crime to prevent a new wave of violence.

The murdered dissidents, who were leftists, were sociologist Jose Manuel Parada Maluenda, adviser to the Vicariate of Solidarity; teacher Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, leader of the teachers union; and draftsman Santiago Natino Allende, a former employee of the Agriculture Ministry.

Special Judge Appointed

PY020336 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Jose Canovas Robles has been appointed special judge to investigate the kidnapping and murder of three persons. This decision was made by the plenum of the Chilean Supreme Court after a request was made by the family of one of the victims, the government, and the Vicariate of Solidarity.

Jose Canovas Robles will investigate the kidnapping and murder of Manuel Guerrero Ceballos, Jose Manuel Maluenda, and Santiago Natino Allende.

12 WOUNDED IN PALM SUNDAY DISTURBANCES

PY011713 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Incidents which took place inside and outside the metropolitan cathedral interrupted the Palm Sunday services. As a result of the incidents, 12 persons were wounded.

Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno has called an extraordinary meeting to analyze the recent violence that has shaken Chile. The meeting will be held today and will be attended by the bishops of the archbishopric.

SANTIAGO CURFEW HOURS SHORTENED 1 HOUR

PY011235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 30 Mar (EFE) -- The curfew hours in Santiago and the metropolitan area have been shortened by 1 hour from Sunday to Thursday, and by 2 hours on Friday, Saturday, and any day before a holiday.

According to a resolution issued by the chief of the area, which is in a state of emergency, the normal curfew hours will be from 0100 to 0500 (0500 to 0900 GMT). These hours will be observed except for the nights from Friday to Saturday, Saturday to Sunday, and the nights before a holiday, when the curfew will start at 0200 (0600 GMT). During the curfew hours no private vehicles or citizens on foot will be allowed in the streets; they will have to remain at home or at their places of work.

Until today the curfew, implemented after the 3 March quake was in force from 2400 until 0500 (0400 until 0900 GMT), every day of the week.

EL MERCURIO NOTES NEED FOR U.S. UNDERSTANDING

PY292158 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Mar 85 p A 3

[Editorial: "Ambassador's Declaration"]

[Text] Our country's relations with the United States are unquestionably important. That country is the major Western power and, because of its geographical position, its influence on Latin American countries is of special significance. Nevertheless, the United States has not always played a positive role in this region. To some degree, the historical, linguistic, cultural, and economic differences constitute an obstacle in the way of good, mutual understanding. The task of the diplomatic personnel of the respective governments is to establish a bridge of communications that make understanding between two different peoples possible.

On various occasions, there have been debates within the U.S. Government on internal Chilean situation, subsequently followed by declarations. Considerable differences have been noted among the U.S. spokesmen who have engaged in those debates. Differences that range from somewhat strong antagonism to ample understanding of the conduct and plans of our government can be detected in the U.S. Congress. The U.S. executive branch has shown concern over the terrorist activities in Chile and the pace at which Chile is moving toward its new institutional order.

In these circumstances, declarations made by our ambassador to the United States, Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, have been published in Washington newspapers. And thanks to these efforts by Ambassador Errazuriz, various Washington circles have begun to understand the true objective of the Chilean military government, as well as the difficulties and risks entailed in the pursuit of that objective.

Chile's economic problems can be directly traced to the deterioration in the terms of exchange; that is, the decline in the ratio between import and export prices. Ambassador Errazuriz has emphasized the impact of the declining ratio, pointing out that economic conditions influence the country's political development. Despite the great importance of these interrelated factors, little is known about them in the United States. The military government's political plan, which was approved by a popular referendum in 1980, is not sufficiently known either, and the continued efforts of our ambassador should contribute to make this plan understood. Ambassador Errazuriz has said: "The objective is to attain a stable democracy, not an artificial one."

From the distance and without all the elements to make a judgment, U.S. politicians find it easy to make pronouncements in favor of a quick return to democratic government, but should all the factors be considered, they would realize that the process must move forward in a sustained but prudent manner.

The visits to Chile by some Washington officials have fortunately improved communications, and upon their return to Washington many of the visitors have explained to U.S. decisionmakers the many problems the Chilean Government is facing in its attempt to speed up the transition process. First, the study of laws to enact the provisions of the 1980 Constitution must be completed, and meantime the country must be governed in such a way as to prevent the worsening of violence, which continues to be the method chosen by the communists to head off the advance toward the goal of democracy.

The exchange of information between Chile and the United States can be instrumental in making our political process properly understood. By conveying his declarations through the Washington press, the Chilean ambassador has contributed to making our country's situation known, thus eliciting the respect of the Americans for our position which, although different in its immediate aspects, pursues an identical objective as theirs:

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NORMALIZED WITH IRAQ

PY290105 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Chile and Iraq are normalizing diplomatic relations. This was announced by the Chilean Foreign Ministry, which added that the two governments have agreed to have concurrent ambassadors in Buenos Aires. [sentence as heard]

GEN MENDOZA FAVORS TREATY WITH ARGENTINA

PY291320 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- General Cesar Mendoza, director general of the Carabineros and member of the Chilean government junta, stated today that the peace and friendship treaty with Argentina must be signed. General Mendoza made this statement at the end of a meeting to study the treaty in which the following participated: Brigadier Ernesto Videla, who led the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation negotiations, and former Chilean ambassador to the Holy See, Santiago Benadava.

The government junta, which is made up of the four commanders of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros and which acts as the Chilean legislative branch, a few days ago began the study of the peace and friendship treaty with Argentina.

Since General Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Air Force, has already given his opinion favorable to the treaty, and since Army commander General Cesar Raul Benavides, represents General Augusto Pinochet, only the opinion of Navy commander Admiral Toribio Merino is required.

Gen Mendoza stated that the junta, as a collegial organization, adopts its resolution unanimously, adding that for this reason he cannot predict the date for the approval of the treaty. He added that the study of the treaty is of an ordinary nature, which means that the Chilean legislative branch has 6 months to decide.

CHARGES AGAINST FORMER GENERAL DISMISSED

PY210246 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] ...The legal case had started by mid-term last year CAUCE magazine published an interview with General Leigh, former Chilean Air Force commander and member of the military junta, in which he allegedly made some offensive statements against the Armed Forces and a court minister. The judge specially appointed to hear the case is Judge Marta (Ossa), who after conducting numerous court procedures and questioning Gen Leigh, decided to dismiss the charges against him. The ruling of the Fourth Court of Appeals of Santiago was reported by Lawyer Jorge Ovalle, who defended Gen Leigh.

MILITARY COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF DETAINEE

PY282038 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1552 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- The Santiago Military Court has unanimously decreed the release of one of the six people accused of attacking a police barracks. Manuel Lorca Hermosilla, detained on 9 November 1984, was accused of participating with five others in the attack of a police barracks in southern Santiago during which two Carabinero agents were killed. The court thus revoked a ruling by a military prosecutor that Lorca Hermosilla is not at all responsible for the incident being investigated. Lorca Hermosilla is the husband of Valentina Perez Vera, against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for her participation in the attack on the police barracks. According to reports published in Santiago newspapers, she has sought refuge in the Swedish Embassy in Santiago.

BETANCUR WILLING TO MEDIATE IN NICARAGUA CONFLICT

FLO20136 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0006 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Washington, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Central American conflict and drug trafficking will dominate the agenda of the visit to Washington that Colombian President Belisario Betancur will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, it was indicated today by diplomatic sources. According to these sources, Betancur will inform his hosts that Colombia would be willing to sponsor eventual negotiations between the Nicaraguan Sandinist authorities and the political-military opposition sponsored by the United States.

Also according to these sources, although Colombia has been recently praised for its part in the war against drugs, it will take the position that the problem of drug addiction in the United States is the principal reason for the growth in the trafficking of drugs. According to these sources, the Colombian chief executive will underscore his government's determination to combat drug trafficking, which recently resulted in the murder of the minister of justice by drug traffickers.

He will also stress the need that the United States do something more than level charges against the producing nations. According to Colombian sources, \$9 of every \$10 derived from drug trafficking between Latin America and the United States remain in the latter country.

Regarding Central America, the Colombian chief executive will stress the need for dialogue and nonmilitary solutions in the region. Within this framework, they said, Betancur will underscore his readiness to assist in the carrying out of negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and its adversaries.

Another point the visitor will take up will be the Latin American financial crisis and the Cartagena Treaty between nations of the area. It is considered important that creditor nations and international financial institutions adopt a more political view of the problems facing the debtor nations.

Betancur's visit will last only 2 days, during which he will meet with President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

PEACE COMMISSION MEMBER PRAISES FARC DECISION

PA312352 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- Peace Commission member Alberto Rojas Puyo has described the statement by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] that it will become a new political organization as an important step toward strengthening the peace process. Rojas Puyo added that several of the proposals calling for the strengthening of democratic institutions were regarded by Senator Emilio Urrea Delgado as concurrent with the views put forth by the new liberalism.

Rojas Puyo stressed that the name chosen, Patriotic Union, points to the creation of a broad national movement. According to FARC leaders, what they want is an integration of the various forces within the nation.

PRESIDENT FEBRES CORDERO TO VISIT U.S., CUBA

PA302112 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] In a note sent to the Constitutional Guarantees Court, President Leon Febres Cordero requested permission to visit the United States and, without any prior notice, he also asked permission to make an official visit to Cuba at the invitation of Cuba's head of state Fidel Castro. The Constitutional Guarantees Court granted permission for these two visits yesterday. The trip will not take more than 12 days. In this trip, the second since the president assumed office, the president will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran and Finance Minister Francisco Swett.

Confirming the two visits, the foreign minister said that the trip to the United States will be of a private nature while that to Cuba will be an official one in which the Ecuadoran president will meet with Cuban President Castro. He also said that they will sign a joint statement during the visit.

[Begin Teran Teran recording] The president will make two important trips in the next few days. The first one, to the United States, is a private visit in which he will meet with representatives of the U.S. private sector, multinational credit organizations, and universities. The reason for this trip is to make important contacts concerning the renegotiation of the debt, promote U.S. investments and channel them to Ecuador, and participate in a forum at Harvard University Business School where he will present a lecture entitled "Ecuador, Prototype of a Developing Country." This forum will be attended by approximately 600 representatives of the largest firms of the world. They will have the opportunity to learn about the needs of our country in regard to its economic development.

The president will also receive an honorary degree from (?Stevens) University. This will be the highlight of the president's private visit to the United States.

Later the president will go to Cuba on an official visit at the very courteous invitation of Cuban head of state, Fidel Castro, with whom Febres Cordero will discuss the bilateral relations.

An Ecuadoran businessmen's delegation has just returned from Cuba, where they met with officials of Cuban enterprises which deal with the foreign trade. They were also received by Castro, with whom they held a talk that lasted more than 5 hours. Now Ecuadoran President Febres Cordero will have the opportunity to talk with his Cuban counterpart.

According to the Constitution, any absences of the head of state must be approved by Congress or, if Congress is not in session, by the Constitutional Guarantees Court. Therefore, this morning the president asked for permission for these absences and I understand that the court has granted it. [end recording]

It was also learned that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi will be in Cuba at the same time as Febres Cordero, and necessary contacts are under way to arrange a meeting between these leaders.

In conclusion, Teran Teran disclosed that he will go to China in May as head of a delegation that will hold talks with the China-Ecuadoran commission in charge of bilateral relations with a view to increasing trade between the two countries.

PRESS SECRETARY ON GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PY011325 Asuncion Red Privada Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2300 GMT
29 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Anibal Fernandez, presidential under secretary of information and culture, has made some comments on current national issues. He said:

[Begin recording] The recent meeting held by the president with the visiting journalists of the U.S. ABC News confirmed once again the extraordinary personality of the president.

He answered all questions thoroughly, with his typical firmness, clarity, and patriotism. This proves once again that there is freedom of the press in Paraguay, despite the comments to the contrary by people of the right, left, center, and even some independents.

The president is a man who dedicates himself completely to the country, and this is why he talks the way he does. Is it now time for the press in general, the free press, as Juan Ramon Chavez [president of the Colorado Party] says, to define its position. I am not asking the press to eulogize the government. We have never asked for that. We have only asked for objectivity, seriousness, and responsibility, qualities which do exist but which could be enhanced, especially now that a campaign has been unleashed against Paraguay. And there is no doubt about this. This is the reason why so many journalists are coming here. Five more have now arrived. I can make a joke about this, saying that I hope many more will come to bring more dollars here. Joking aside, the press should be interested in our large merchant ships, our roads, our freedom, our democracy, and not in Mengele.

Fellow countrymen, the story about Mengele goes on, and Mengele is nothing but the product of the imagination of many people and of an international plot. I would like to repeat what I have said once before. This is not a Nicaragua which is destroying half a continent, or a Cuba where people die by the dozens, countries which are jeopardizing the security of the American continent.

In conclusion I would like to mention to church officials the case of a special mass, and this is not a criticism, because I also am a Christian, but I also am a just man who believes that the birthday of a musician like Herminio Gimenez does not deserve a special mass. He may be a great musician, but he is also a communist, always going to Moscow. All we need now is a special mass for musician Asuncion Flores, who rests in peace, who was a member of the communist party.

Should not this rather be the time for a Te Deum of thanks for having a marvelous merchant marine, or a 6,000-ton vessel which is our pride? Or is it that enough has not been done for our democracy? Why could not a prayer be held for an end to this odious campaign against the constitutional order and against national officials who respect the Constitution and the laws?

Television viewers, countrymen, do you not believe that those men who did so much for peace, and who are defending it every day deserve, more than anyone else, not only a prayer but a religious ceremony? [end recording]

MINISTER BECERRA RENEGOTIATES DEBT WITH USSR

PY011823 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0035 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Industry, Tourism, and Integration Minister Alvaro Becerra has managed to refinance the Peruvian debt with the Soviet Union and thus solved a serious problem inherited from the military government: \$150 million will be paid in nontraditional products and \$50 million in traditional products. The minister, who was accompanied by 35 private businessmen and representatives of 23 Peruvian enterprises, concluded important contracts with the Soviets. It has been learned that 11 of these enterprises would have gone bankrupt had their proposals been rejected by the Soviets.

In expending payments, Peruvian exports will not be necessarily sent to the USSR but to other countries within the Soviet orbit, in accordance with a timetable.

WRITER'S WIDOW, LAWYERS ARRESTED FOR SUBVERSION

PY011631 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] The widow of writer Jose Maria Arguedas -- who wrote "Los Rios Profundos," "El Sexto," and "Yawar Fiesta" -- and two well-established lawyers, Tito Valle Traverso and Luis Nonay Montes, have been arrested by the Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] on charges of being involved in terrorist activities and of being members of the Maoist Shining Path group.

Although the PIP has not released any information on the case, it has been learned that Arguedas' widow, who is a Chilean anthropologist, was charged with participating in subversive activities.

A senior official, who asked not to be identified, confirmed the arrest of Mrs Arguedas but noted that no evidence has yet been produced to confirm her involvement in terrorist acts.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1507 GMT on 1 April adds: "Sibila Arredondo has just completed the publication in Prague of five books containing the complete works of Arguedas. She is a Chilean citizen."]

BRIEFS

SHELL FINDS PETROLEUM, GAS -- State Petroleum Agency President Fernando Zuniga y Rivero last night reported that in the zone explored by Shell in Madre de Dios, there is evidence of the existence of petroleum, especially in the zone of Pantiacolla. Zuniga y Rivero stated that Shell has drilled two wells and discovered large amounts of gas. [Excerpt] [Lima Radio El Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 85 PY]

SANGUINETTI SPEAKS ON DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

PY011817 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0810 GMT 1 Apr 85

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Apr (EFE) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's efforts to consolidate civilian power have received unanimous support from the opposition, 1 month after full democracy was restored in Uruguay.

Sanguinetti went to the interior of the country over the weekend and, accompanied by members of the opposition, participated in a public ceremony in Treinta y Tres, 350 km northeast of Montevideo. It was attended, by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, leader of the main opposition Blanco Party; retired General Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front Leftist coalition; and Humberto Ciganda, president of Civic Union of Social Christians.

All the politicians agreed in stressing the importance of the return of democracy and of the common task of strengthening the institutional bases. The presence of the opposition together with Sanguinetti showed the country that the Uruguayan civilians are united at a time when the brand new democracy is enduring the final actions of a few among the military who still are reluctant to give up authoritarianism.

In an improvised speech on the day celebrating the renewal of democracy, Sanguinetti admitted that there are enemies of freedom. The president said:

There have always been people in this country who do not believe in democracy. They have been and are a minority, but they exist, and more important to us than their ideological position is the fact that they are no friends of freedom. He added: We know this, but we also know that there is a vast majority of the people who are intensely and essentially democratic.

Alluding to the political problems which made possible the 1973 coup d'etat, Sanguinetti admitted that there had been a collective sin at that time.

The president said that now there is an attitude of watchfulness, above all to protect the institutions. The president stated: You should be certain that the enemies of democracy, who do not have the ear of the public, will be isolated at the moment that they try to take a step aimed at demolishing the institutions we have reconstructed with effort and vigor and which will be indestructible.

Sanguinetti also spoke about the economic problems of the country. Despite the fact that today we are just as badly off as 30 days ago and as we will be in these first stages, he showed his joy over the freedom reigning in the country. He appealed to the social forces, which had been harshly oppressed by the dictatorship, to remain calm, and he gave his reasons for hope in the future.

During his first month in government, Sanguinetti had to face 40 strikes and stoppages, but in most cases he could find roads toward agreements. On 29 March the democratic government overcame the first threat of a general strike, and on the same day the labor minister promised the modernization of the labor legislation so that all petitions can be promptly channeled through civilian courts.

ECONOMY MINISTER VISITS FRG, MEETS BUSINESSMEN

For coverage of the visit to the FRG by a delegation led by Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino, including his talks with businessmen, see the FRG section of the 29 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF PRC'S GU MU

Meets De la Madrid

FL291508 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0232 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid today met with PRC State Council member Gu Mu, who is paying a courtesy visit. During the meeting, held at the official residence of Los Pinos, they discussed topics of common interest on bilateral and multilateral matters.

Meets Planning Secretary

FL291810 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1650 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- PRC State Council member Gu Mu has met here with Mexican Secretary of Programming and Budget Carlos Salinas de Gortari. During the meeting, the two officials discussed the most important aspects of the economic situation of the two countries, the Mexican Secretariat of Government reported. Salinas de Gortari told Gu Mu: We wanted to have this conversation with you because we Mexicans have always been very interested in the great effort being made by the Chinese people.

Gu Mu showed great interest in listening to the Mexican official, and said that relations between the two states are now excellent. He also described the PRC's economic situation and said Mexico and the PRC are still far from achieving the desired level of bilateral cooperation.

Salinas de Gortari and Gu Mu agreed to strengthen cooperation in the fields of science, technology, and trade.

Discusses Trade Relations

FL301700 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Mexican Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez Cervantes and PRC State Council member Gu Mu agreed today that Mexico and the PRC will intensify their economic cooperation and trade relations.

During a working meeting, Hernandez Cervantes explained the policies the federal government has implemented in the fields of foreign investments, assembly of products for export, and development of industry and foreign trade. He also discussed the operation of Mexican free zones. The two officials also exchanged points of view on the economic measures that the two governments are taking to modernize industry and encourage exports.

The PRC official explained that his country has opened coastal cities to international trade and permits the formation of enterprises with 100 percent foreign capital.

AGREEMENT SIGNED ON FOREIGN DEBT RESTRUCTURING

FL292228 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1910 GMT 29 Mar 85

[By Jose Carreno]

[Excerpts] New York, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The accord restructuring the payment of the foreign debt provides relief for Mexico but it is not a cure-all, Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog said here today. He added that the international foreign debt problem has not been resolved either and called for more cooperation between debtor and lender nations to overcome this.

In statements after signing the payment restructuring accord of Mexico's foreign debt, Silva Herzog added that Argentine officials had not asked Mexico for help in repaying their \$500 million in interest debt.

Silva Herzog said that Mexico would probably return to the voluntary capital markets at year-end, but underscored that it would be done prudently. He reiterated denial of a story that the Mexican Government had offered international banks shares in state companies such as the Lazaro Cardenas steel and iron company and the paper production and importer company, among others, in exchange for the loans.

PAN HOLDS CONVENTION, ISSUES PARTY PLATFORM

PA211739 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 18 Mar 85 pp 4, 6

[Text] National Action Party (PAN) President Pablo E. Madero declared Sunday that the PAN wants three years to show the Mexican people how to transform a society which has become "savage" for many Mexicans. "Savage for those without jobs, savage for those who live in fear of the police, savage for those without homes, savage for those who go before the courts and do not receive justice, savage for heads of families whose rights are trampled upon, savage for rural residents," Madero charged.

The PAN leader, speaking at the party's national convention officially initiating PAN candidates' electoral campaign, said the National Action Party would need only three years to show the people of Mexico how to transform Mexican society into a just society of honest work and dedication to the people. In a new, just society, he added, "we will have love instead of hate, the truth in place of lies, and solidarity where now there is egoism."

The PAN political platform, released at the weekend convention, affirms as National Action's goal "to enter into the public life of Mexico." PAN, the platform says, is committed to gaining power democratically and fighting for the recognition of the "eminent dignity of human beings."

Details of a National Action program, PAN senior official Jesus Galvan said, will be formulated in response to the wishes of the electorate. "The people of Mexico," he said, "are the ones who should be pointing out which problems must be solved, and they should do so long before the technocrats implement their schemes."

PAN official Jose Angel Conchello told the convention that the present moment "offers a great opportunity for the country to save itself from the grave danger in which the present administration has put the country." Most of the nation's problems are economic, Conchello said, especially an inflation rate which he said had reached 70 percent.

Wealthy government officials are benefitting from the high inflation while the people of the country are paying the costs of inflation suffering the side effects, he alleged.

According to PAN officials, the party's campaign strategy for 1985 is to fight against apathy and abstentionism, which they say exist because of low public confidence in the honesty of the electoral process and low public regard for opposition parties. During this campaign, the officials said, the PAN seeks to overcome an "information deficit." This deficit, they claim is responsible for the electorate's lack of understanding of opposition parties and for their consequent low regard of these parties.

Among National Action's other goals, they said, are a reduction in the ruling PRI party's control of the government apparatus and an increase in voter turnout. Naturally, they expect this would increase the vote for PAN.

PAN has targeted a number of districts where it is confident of gaining a majority and intends to concentrate its resources there, they added.

COSTA RICABETANCUR DISCUSSES REVIEW OF CONTADORA DOCUMENT

FL011300 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0135 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur said here today that the Contadora Group has entered into a grace period of reactivation after having removed obstacles. During a 4-hour visit to Costa Rica after leaving Nicaragua, Betancur reiterated his support for reviewing the peace and cooperation proposal's section on control and verification which Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador will make. Betancur described the pressuring by Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador as reasonable. Last September they made their first review of the proposal which put the peace negotiations 6 months behind schedule. He said that he would present the Contadora proposal to U.S. President Ronald Reagan at their meeting Tuesday and that he would also give Reagan the latest news on Central America compiled from his tour through Central America. Betancur denied that the United States had a place within the Contadora framework on the situation in Central America, even though he recognized that both the Soviet Union and the United States have interests in the area, thus they will have a say in resolving and perfecting the process.

EDITORIAL ON U.S. TRAINING OFFICERS IN HONDURAS

PA291447 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 22-28 Mar 85 p 2

[Editorial: "A National Shame"]

[Text] Through an indiscretion by ACAN-EFE, we Costa Ricans have learned that a group of civil police officers are being trained at a U.S. base in Honduras. The government had kept this secret zealously, and the national news media -- so diligent when it comes to disclosing "subversive conspiracies" -- knew nothing of this. Matters that are important for the country are kept from the general public, and, with the scorn those in power feel toward common citizens, most of us, they mete out to us only a gross and false intoxicating campaign aimed at distorting all important events in our society and the world. Rulers and robber barons are convinced that the average Costa Rican is a fool. These people are so shameless, they do not hesitate at all. The security minister's voice did not tremble when he told the country -- after the foreign news agency let the cat out of the bag -- that Costa Rican officers' being trained in Honduras is the Costa Rican Government's answer to a report released by the Honduran military on "a conspiracy plot that originated in Havana and Managua against Costa Rican democracy." This does not mean that we attribute excessive intelligence to the friends of the Free Costa Rica Movement, but we do have the right to demand reliability and responsibility from a minister, please be serious, Mr Benjamin [Benjamin Piza, public security minister], the country is tired of so many cheap novels.

The truth is that U.S. pressure plus the weakness and complicity of those who act more in Washington's interests than those of Costa Rica, are pushing us headlong into the U.S. military and aggressive machinery in the region. As one of the Yankee officers in charge of training the Costa Rican military put it: "In accordance with the region's interests and needs, the exchange of military experiences with Costa Rica is very important for all and must continue." Through dramatic experience, we know what those "interests and needs" are. After blocking the Contadora Group, the Reagan administration is conducting an all-out offensive to open the door for war.

As opposed to Contadora's humanistic and negotiation-oriented initiative, the United States wants to strangle the Sandinist revolution and eliminate peace and democracy. We are pushed, sometimes slowly but always inexorably, toward commitments and policies alien to the civil and peaceful tradition of our people and which flagrantly contradict the principles embodied in President Monge's neutrality proclamation.

What are these civil police officers learning at the Yankee base in Honduras? According to reports that have seeped out and that no one has denied, the students at the Regional Military Training Center (this is the base's name) train in counterinsurgency strategies used by U.S. Army in Vietnam, that is to say, dirty war strategy. Are these officers learning to handle napalm? Or are they learning to trap the civilian population in strategic villages after having leveled their homes and plantations? Perhaps they are getting lessons in torture? The security minister must appear before the public and the Legislative Assembly to explain what lessons the civil policemen are receiving from the masters of the Vietnam war.

The minister has said that this training is necessary to fight outbreaks of terrorism. A special police force trained in Panama has already been formed with this pretext. According to some observers, this force's training is "impressive." According to other reports, this force trains by firing at images of well-known national democratic figures. In truth, the only terrorism dangerous to democracy in this country is that conducted by counterrevolutionary bands that have already formed a mercenary army entrenched in our territory. No, Mr Minister, the state already has the resources necessary to defend itself. The formation of a counterinsurgency battalion has nothing to do with national interests. The existence of this battalion responds rather to U.S. interests. The United States is bent on aligning Costa Rica with U.S. military policy. In addition, it is truly a shame that efforts are being made to justify the formation of this battalion through information released by the Honduran military. Since when has that military been interested in the fate of our peace and democracy? They are the very same military who murdered and abducted many Costa Rican citizens and who laughed at our Legislative Assembly when the latter has tried to determine the whereabouts of our fellow citizens.

The presence of Costa Rican military officers at a U.S. base in Honduras is another severe blow to the neutrality policy and a new obstacle to the Contadora Document. Many dangerous facts have accumulated. We Costa Ricans must keep our eyes wide open and mobilize the democratic resources of our people and our nationality to prevent the country from becoming involved in war. The defense of peace and neutrality -- this is the defense of our country's freedom and democratic future -- should be the center of our concern and our struggle.

WORKERS CONGRESS CONDEMNS VOA PRESENCE

PA290241 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 22-28 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] Those participating in the Confederation of Costa Rican Workers congress have considered that the installation of the Voice of America [VOA] booster station in the country "is part of the military strategy of the Reagan administration, which seeks to attack the Sandinist revolution and interfere militarily in Costa Rica's domestic policy." The congress issued a resolution flatly condemning the presence of VOA in Costa Rica and pledging not to cease in the struggle to expel "this imperialistic presence in the homeland of Juanito Mora and Juan Santamaria."

In addition, an appeal was made to all workers, citizens, and Central American solidarity organizations to form a single front to struggle against the foreign military presence in the country because it has been considered that this presence "violates our sovereignty, constitutes a flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state, and represents a constant threat to democratic freedom and the struggle for the genuine rights of the workers." The congress entrusted the national directorate with the task of initiating all necessary legal and political measures in order to remove VOA installations from Costa Rican soil forever.

EL SALVADOR

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT VISITS, VIEWS CONTADORA

Betancur Arrives

PA011533 Paris AFP in Spanish 1512 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Apr (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur arrived at the international airport of El Salvador at 0842 (1442 GMT) today where he was greeted by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte. The two heads of state will meet for 2 hours in a room at the airport and will hold a press conference later. After visiting El Salvador, Betancur will go to Guatemala, the last Central American leg of a lightning visit that took him to meet with the presidents of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras on Sunday to discuss the peace proposal of the Contadora Group made up of Colombia, Venezuela, Panama and Mexico. Betancur will then continue on to Mexico to meet with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, before ending his visit in Washington, where he will brief President Ronald Reagan on the Contadora Groups position regarding the Central American situation.

Duarte, Betancur Press Conference

PA011902 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1609 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Dress conference with President Jose Napoleon Duarte and Colombian President Belisario Betancur at San Salvador's International Airport -- live]

[Text] [Duarte] [Words indistinct] the president of Colombia to our country. [Words indistinct] speak with us, give us advice, [words indistinct] in America, on the topic of peace. All of us in one way or another are enduring the crisis and conflict. In El Salvador we are aware of the experience and the spirit with which President Betancur has undertaken so many efforts, not only to benefit his own country, but many other countries as well. That is why we have been open to his advice, his thoughts, [words indistinct]. Here he is.

[Moderator] I present to you the president of Colombia, Belisario Betancur.

[Betancur] Good morning, members of the press. As President Duarte said this is really an apostolic mission in search of the priceless gift of peace. I say priceless because it is the natural umbrella under which all the great tasks of development must take place. We have stated repeatedly that peace is not only the absence of war, but that it has other ingredients such as social justice, the just distribution of wealth, and peace of mind, the delicate balance of all of man's potentials.

When that balance exists, all human potentials can be applied to higher tasks than destroying one another. In this sense, the goals that the Contadora Group has set for itself have those ethical considerations as their backdrop. We are not seeking peace for the sake of peace itself, with a spirit of universal philanthropy, but within the protection of our own cause. [Words indistinct] in relations with the contemporary world, I realize more and more that peace is an indivisible and indissoluble knot, that when it touches one part of the world it immediately works as catalyst and spreads to other parts of the world, precisely because of the interrelationships I have mentioned.

Yesterday and the day before I engaged in a tour that began in Caracas, where I met with President Lusinchi and his government team. Yesterday morning I was in Panama, where I met with President Ardito Barletta; at noon I met in Costa Rica with President Monge; in the afternoon I met in Managua with President Commander Daniel Ortega; and last night in La Paz, Honduras, I met with President Suazo Cordova. The sole and outstanding topic of all these meetings was peace in Central America and the Caribbean. We did not speak about a peace that the members of the Contadora Group intend to create, as if we were artists or metalworkers. We are gathering elements of judgment so the Central American people themselves can recover peace. I have said repeatedly that no one can save a man from himself, we each carry salvation or destruction within ourselves. Therefore, what we are doing is gathering elements of goodwill so total peace will emerge from within the souls of the Central American peoples. Gentlemen, I am open to your questions -- easy ones, I hope. That would be delightful.

[Moderator] If you will excuse me, Mr President, and, in order to help the foreign newsmen who are here, you have before you from left to right, Ambassador Salvador Figueros, director of protocol at the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Velez Trujillo, Colombian ambassador to El Salvador; the vice president of the Republic; President Betancur, President Duarte, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Tenorio, Salvadoran Defense Minister General Vides Casanova, and Mrs Velez Trujillo. Mr President, Efigmenio Ibarra of Mexico's NOTIMEX, will ask a question.

[Ibarra] The year began [words indistinct] increase in the conflict, and growing skepticism toward the Contadora Group's peace efforts. What concrete prospects do you see in the efforts to achieve a negotiated peace in the region, and what concrete prospects do you see in the Contadora Group's actions amid the growing conflicts and the skepticism that prevails regarding its work?

[Betancur] I am a professional optimist. Therefore, my answer is optimistic, though reasonably so. The obstacles that emerged at the beginning of the year have been gradually removed because there has been the will to remove them. Our involvement in helping to remove those obstacles was met with good will on the part of those directly involved in them. I suppose this language is rhetoric, so allow me to speak on more concrete terms. Regarding the case of asylum seeker Urbina Lara, which seriously disrupted the process, we have seen that after a dialectical process to persuade the various parties and an exchange of ideas, a solution emerged.

Yesterday in Honduras I stated that beginning with that moment a period of grace has begun to surround the Contadora process. Meanwhile, we have gone over the observations made by El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, and have found that many of those proposals are viable. Therefore, I must answer that I am being reasonably optimistic regarding the outcome of the meetings that will begin on the Contadora process during the second week of April, after the meetings of the technical groups and the deputy foreign ministers.

[Moderator] Mr Betancur: Chuck McNeil of NBC.

[McNeil -- in English] You have long shown an interest in the peace process in Central America. Could we ask first if President Duarte might comment on the impact of yesterday's elections on the peace process here in El Salvador, and then the reaction perhaps of President Betancur to yesterday's elections and their impact. Could both of you perhaps give a comment?

[Betancur] The truth is that the way that the electoral process was held in El Salvador sets an example. Due to the difficulties that everyone is aware of, there had been a wave of skepticism about the holding of the elections and the limitations they would have. You foreign journalists know that all over the world there were reports that if the elections were held -- at one moment it was even thought that they would not be held -- they would just cover a small part of El Salvador. Nevertheless, we know that the elections were held in a very extensive part of El Salvador. The elections were held with broad participation. Therefore, I think that regardless of the results, I could not comment because I do not want to meddle in internal politics since I want to be very respectful. The holding of the elections and the crystal clear way that they were held will be an example that will have repercussions in the context of the Central American reality and specifically on the Contadora talks that will begin in the second week of April. They will have immediate repercussions.

[Moderator] Mr President, Raul Beltran of Radio Cadena YSU of El Salvador.

[Beltran] My question is on the following: What specific steps will the Contadora Group try to take regarding the following: Honduras is a territory occupied by the contras and the same is happening in Costa Rica. El Salvador continues to note that Nicaragua is the base for the export of subversion, which has been under way for the past 5 years. The United States is openly backing the actions of counterrevolutionaries against Nicaragua. What is the Contadora Group going to do or try to do to persuade these governments to seek a true detente after 2 years that this group has been in existence?

[Betancur] That is a multifaceted question [pregunta plurimicefalica] [laughter] if the word exits. The 21 points of the Contadora proposal and document contain the answers to the cascade-type of question you just asked. Overall and bilateral solutions are established in the document. I apologize for not answering each of your questions specifically because the draft document contains the overall and bilateral responses needed. The draft document, as you know, has suffered several [word indistinct] which to me have delayed the signing of the document. However, they are not worrisome in the end because I believe that it is better to delay the signing of the document as long as this delay -- as it has been occurring -- results in more specifics. I was talking to President Duarte about one of these specifics: the verification commission.

The experience we have in Colombia concerning the agreements with the guerrillas establishes that there is a need for verification commissions so implementation of the agreements will not be disrupted later. Therefore, it is better to have this delay before than after the agreement. This is what is occurring in the Contadora process. The proposals of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica are viable and can be applied in some 90 percent of the cases. I told this to President Duarte and the foreign minister. The answers are there. Any more questions?

[Moderator] Yes, Mr President. Carlos Rosa Gaitan of the Salvadoran Center of Reporters.

[Gaitan] Mr President, Contadora has had too many problems in Central America and in Latin America. It is having these problems and it will continue to have these problems. What will you say to De la Madrid in Mexico and to the U.S. President? Mr President, you already talked with the guerrillas and are you on the path to peace. President Duarte also... [interrupted by station announcer who states that this is the end of the press conference]

PDC CLAIMS 57 PERCENT OF ELECTION VOTES

PA011423 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0724 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Apr (EFE) -- The Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC] obtained 57 percent of the votes cast in Sunday's legislative and municipal elections held in El Salvador, after a little more than 10 percent of the votes were counted.

The PDC admitted that the voter turnout dropped in these elections and estimated the rate of absenteeism at about 30 to 35 percent. At a press conference held at PDC headquarters, its top leaders claim that the initial returns give them the majority in the Legislative Assembly and more than 200 of the 262 municipalities in the country.

According to the same source, the right-wing coalition made up of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and the National Conciliation Party (PCN) obtained 40 percent.

"We have won the Salvadoran elections," Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, PDC candidate for mayor of San Salvador, stated. According to initial information the PDC has virtually won the mayoral post. Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte was not present at the press conference, although the party leadership did attend. Morales Ehrlich stressed the need for "an assembly that will promote the democratic process and a new legal order, which was impossible or difficult with deputies who were sometimes antidemocratic." Up to now with only 24 of the 60 deputies the PDC was a minority in the legislature and government projects were blocked on several occasions. "With an assembly and municipalities controlled by the PDC and with the support that it has received, the PDC now has a serious commitment to the fatherland and we hope not to let our people down," Morales Ehrlich stated.

Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, vice president of the Republic, said that this PDC triumph will permit the government to "rescue all the forces of the country, be they social, political, or economic, who believe in the democratic system." "We will incorporate them to work together," the ranking official stated. Morales Ehrlich noted that the voter turnout had dropped and estimated that electoral participation will be about 55 percent, although he believes that the electoral registry "is inflated." He said that the census included many Salvadorans who are dead and others who are out of the country, and said that the fact that voters were obliged to vote in the municipalities where they were registered was one reason fewer votes were cast.

Considering everything, Morales Ehrlich estimated that the real rate of participation will be between 65 and 70 percent. The virtual mayor of San Salvador said that they fear a violent reaction this very night from "people who formerly held power."

Final Vote Count To Begin

PA020419 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0324 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Apr (DPA) -- Mario Samayoa, president of the Central Electoral Council (CCE), said today on national radio and television that at 1300 tomorrow the CCE will begin the final vote count in the presence of all political parties that participated in the elections. Samayoa asked the Salvadoran people to have confidence in the responsibility of the three members of the CCE because the CCE is a "very serious and formal" organization.

Arturo Mendez Azahar, third member of the CCE, said that tomorrow they will meet with the attorney general of the Republic, Jose Francisco Guerrero, who will lend "legitimacy and honesty" to the development of the vote counting. Azahar said that the council will also meet with the members of the political parties on the Vigilance Council to discuss "the procedures to be used" and insisted that "the highest electoral organization" is the only one legally authorized to report official results. He added that specific information should be available to the people by Wednesday. Francisco Merino, third [as received] member of the council, warned "not to pay attention to information other than that supplied by the Electoral Council."

RADIO VENCEREMOS TERMS ELECTIONS 'USELESS'

PA011421 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0200 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Station Commentary]

[Text] On Sunday, 31 March, another electoral process ended. It was carried out in the midst of strong contradictions between the various oligarchic factions, popular indifference, and intense struggles by popular sectors. The 72 days of loud and vulgar electoral campaigns made the deep contradictions among the political parties struggling for power more evident and showed that the elections support their own interests in maintaining the system. The serious mutual accusations of corruption, inability, and even direct links with death squads, moved from verbal to physical violence that left persons injured, beaten, and dead among the parties participating in the elections. Meanwhile, millions were invested in the electoral campaign in the midst of a serious economic crisis, the full weight of which falls on the popular sectors. All of the parties referred to the economic crisis, the violation of human rights, and the peace issue, but none of them proposed concrete programs to solve these problems.

The electoral campaign took place in the midst of intense and continuous popular struggles. During the campaign thousands of cooperative organization members demonstrated in the streets of San Salvador, demanding their rights. During the campaign teachers demonstrated and several labor unions held work stoppages and strikes. Humanitarian organizations mobilized in favor of human rights. All of the people, through their organizations, demanded that the regime seek peace through dialogue and negotiation. All of these popular mobilizations during the electoral campaign questioned the unjust social, economic, and political system defended by the Armed Forces, the political parties, and the U.S. Government.

Regarding Sunday's elections, as news reports and even political party spokesmen have said, they were characterized by a notably small turnout and disorder. We will discuss the latter issue later. Abstentionism and apathy were greater in these elections than during past ones. This is because the elections were seen as a useless activity of no value to the people.

It is also logical for an electoral process that takes place in the midst of a war to be plagued by problems and to not reflect the Salvadoran people's will. Elections held when there is no control over national territory, over government organizations, over local governments, over the economy, and most of all, in the midst of a war and a duality of powers, will be disorderly and devoid of political value.

In many areas there were no electoral boards, candidates, or observers, so the Army played those roles. In all these places the electoral results proclaimed by the Armed Forces, lacking in popular backing because of the Army's inability to secure these municipal organizations, will result in municipal organizations in exile. In guaranteeing, with great sacrifices, this useless electoral event, the puppet Armed Forces attempted to demonstrate its control, just when the war, in its full intensity, has advanced to vital areas, in the capital city itself, as demonstrated by the deserted highways, continuous blackouts, guerrilla activity in the western sectors, lackeys being brought to trial, and other actions in the capital city.

The war and the mobilization of the masses, not the elections, were the dominant aspects of this electoral process. Regardless of the results of the elections, it can be foreseen that the contradictions and struggles among the pro-oligarchic factions, far from being solved, will be deepened. Napoleon Duarte himself foresaw this during his dramatic speech on Saturday night, when he announced a dialogue with all of the political parties, aware of the deepening crisis and the approaching right-wing offensive. Duarte knows this. This is why he is asking all sides involved to come to an agreement. Meanwhile, the people's urgent demands, the economic crisis, and the peace problem will not be resolved by the elections, no matter who wins. All of the demagogic promises made by the parties during their electoral campaigns will be forgotten, as usual. However, we see some value in the elections. They served to show the people that the path to achieve their demands entails increased organization and mobilization.

Announces End of Traffic Stoppage

PA020217 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Text] Attention transporters and Salvadoran people: As of 1800 on Monday, 1 April, the campaign to paralyze transportation on a national level ends. We repeat, as of 1800 on Monday, 1 April, the FMLN concludes the campaign to paralyze transportation on a national level. Millions of dollars in losses to the puppet regime's war economy have resulted from the paralyzation of transportation on a national level during the 4 days it was enforced. The paralyzation ends at 1800 today, Monday, 1 April. Jointly with the paralyzation of transportation, in the past few days our guerrilla units continued intense sabotage activities against electricity pylons in the outskirts of San Salvador. These activities caused extensive blackouts on several occasions, leaving large sectors of the capital without electricity.

Meanwhile, our advance forces were very active in the eastern sector of the country, cutting off electricity on several occasions. The forces of the dictatorship in that sector were forced to put into operation the San Miguel electric plant at a cost of millions in fuel. Other FMLN advance units were active in several departments, including San Vicente Department, with additional sabotage acts against energy installations, as part of sabotage actions against the regime's war economy that have cost it millions of dollars, which the dictatorship will not be able to use in the war against our people.

GUATEMALABETANCUR VISITS EN ROUTE TO MEXICO, U.S.

PA011936 Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Apr (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur arrived in Guatemala at 1215 (1915 GMT) today on the last leg of his Central American visit, before visiting Mexico and the United States. Betancur was greeted by Guatemalan head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores at the Guatemalan Air Base, and they immediately began a meeting. Sources close to the Foreign Ministry have told AFP that the "exclusive" topic discussed by the two heads of state will be the peace-keeping efforts of the Contadora Group, made up of Panama, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela. Betancur will leave here for Cancun, Mexico, at 1430 (2130 GMT).

HONDURASEXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE RIFT OVER COURT CONTINUES

Rodists Press Conference

PA311754 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2235 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Press conference by Juan de la Cruz Avelar Leiva, president of the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Rodist Movement, MLR; Rafael Pineda Ponce, Rodist leader and member of the Permanent Committee of the Honduran National Congress; Alberto Rodriguez Espinoza, MLR secretary general; and other Rodist leaders at the headquarters of the Rodist Liberal Movement in Tegucigalpa; questioners identified by Voz de Honduras reporter -- live]

[Excerpts] [Avelar Leiva] Fellow members of the Central Executive Council, members of the MLR's Central Directorate, Mssrs Deputies, and members of the press:

We have gathered at the offices of the Central Executive Council this afternoon to begin this press conference, during which we will release the official list of the conventioners of the Vicente Mejia Colindres Convention to be held on 13 and 14 April in the city of Comayagua. The Central Executive Council wishes to demonstrate before the Honduran people and Liberals our concern over the latest developments at the National Congress. With us are all those deputies who, with true patriotic and Liberal zeal, have come forth to defend this administration, as is the duty of all genuine Honduran Liberals. We wish to stress that the deputies who are here with us today have defended this country's Constitution at a time when a group of bad Liberals, allied with our adversaries, have tried to trample the constitutional order established in 1982. [applause] I congratulate you on behalf of the Central Executive Council and the genuine, unwavering, and humble Liberals throughout the country, who we know are supporting us right now in the struggle to preserve the government, because it is our duty to put aside all personal ambitions to keep the Liberal Party in government.

I wish to inform the Honduran people that most conventioners will go to Comayagua. Since we set up offices here, the Central Executive Council that I head has received the support of all the departmental, community, and other Liberal councils.

This has given us a great deal of satisfaction and prompted us to continue struggling to hold our red, white, and red banner high with the colors of our Liberal ideology and principles. I want to thank the media, which have always shown support for the Central Executive Council that we head. Before closing, I wish to repeat the object of this conference, which is to release the list of conventioners who were elected on 21 August 1983. We have stated before that there have been some modifications to the lists in some municipalities; there are not many, but we have with us the minutes corroborating the fact that those alternations to the official lists were not made by us, but by some departmental leaders who have acted contrary to the interests of the Liberal Party of Honduras. Thank you and receive my most warm greeting, all Liberals of Honduras, who we know are following these developments. Thank you very much.

[Pineda Ponce] Members of the press and fellow deputies, I am open to your questions.

[Adolfo Hernandez] Are you sure [words indistinct] different from this list. Won't this create some confusion? Do you believe that you can obtain a victory with the delegates on this list?

[Pineda Ponce] There are at least 200 delegates on this list, which is the official list issued by the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party and authorized by the Central Electoral Tribunal -- and also on the other list that appeared in the press some days ago, released by an alleged central electoral council -- who will assure us a victory at the party convention.

[Avelar Leiva] Now Manfredo Fajardo Aguirre, from Santa Barbara Department, will speak.

[Fajardo Aguirre] We are worried about instances of discontent in Santa Barbara. We have some demands with us that we wish to read. For example, in Protection municipality, the principal is Neftali Ramos, but someone else by the name of Neftali Giron appears on the list. Another case is in Gualala municipality. The principal is Mr Pineda, but another name is on the list. I would like someone to clarify this please.

[Rodriguez Espinoza] That is a good question. We should be aware of the system used to nominate the local, departmental, and national delegates. The charter states that each movement must submit its list according to the rules established by the Central Executive Committee. The task is a difficult one. We fully abide by the charter. Sometimes some names meet with objections. The changes that were made to Santa Barbara's lists were presented before this council. Bu Giron and Mrs Graciela Pineda de Giron wrote in the new names. Here you can see the names that were erased in the minutes. These are the originals. They had my signature on them and the signature of Romualdo Bueson Penalba, at that time secretary general of the party.

[Adolfo Hernandez] What do you think prompted the use of the title Rodist Liberal Movement-for-the-Candidacy of Efraim Bu Giron.

[Rodriguez Espinoza] That is a good question. It was in fact a group supporting a given candidacy, in this case that of Efraim Bu Giron. We have not authorized the use of the MLR's name for this. Why? Because there are people in the movement's political committee and others who we know are supporting his presidential aspirations who are not members of the MLR.

[Rolando Sarmiento] We have been speaking about the principle and alternate delegates to the national convention of the Liberal Party of Honduras that is to take place in Comayagua. However, during that past several days we have heard people at the National Congress -- and we don't know if this was a decision by the Central Executive Council -- speak of extending the period of the convention. We had heard it would take place on 13 and 14 April. Now we hear that it will take place from 11 to 14 April. We would like to know about the preparations for that convention and its exact date and place.

[Avelar Leiva] The decree calling the convention that was issued by this Executive Council sets 13 and 14 April as the dates for the convention. Some delegates who live far from Comayagua may have to leave their areas a few days in advance. Also, you know there are a number of procedures that are necessary to give each delegate his credentials and identification cards. All this takes time. We must match their names to the official lists that we are releasing today. That is why we may have to begin working on the 11th.

[Voz de Honduras reporter] Mr Rodriguez Espinoza has said that at this meeting you are discussing a matter that pertains to Mr Posada. What is it?

[Rodriguez Espinoza] No, we are not. I mentioned his name when I referred to a notice sent to Bu Giron, asking him to issue a written statement on his stance regarding an arrest warrant issued for Mr Posada. That was the source of the problem. After that, the Congress appointed an investigative commission. I believe that Mr Posada has fulfilled his mission, he has been proclaimed a martyr in that communique. After this, problems emerged in the National Congress, all on account of a simple notice on Posada. Now he is viewed as a martyr and anarchy has erupted in the country on account of the problem.

[Rolando Sarmiento] Now the members of the Central Executive Council are discussing final details of a communique they will release in a few moments.

[First unidentified speaker] The decree convoking a special national convention stands. The dates are 13 and 14 April in the city of Comayagua. We wish to emphasize that Mr Posada, of Danli, has fulfilled the mission that his fellow party members -- not Liberals -- had given him.

[Second unidentified speaker] We will now read an official bulletin issued by the Central Executive Council. It reads: The Central Executive Committee of the Liberal Party of Honduras reports to all its convention delegates:

1. The Vicente Mejia Colindres special national convention of the Liberal Party of Honduras will take place in the city of Comayagua, Comayagua Department, as stipulated in the decree convoking it.
2. To furnish all convention delegates with their due credentials, and so that they may personally greet Honduran President Suazo Cordova, you are hereby summoned to the city of Comayagua on the morning of 11 April. A special commission will be awaiting you there.
3. All convention delegates must bring their identification cards to prevent dissidents and enemies of the party, claiming to be delegates, from entering the convention. The Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras hereby instructs you to behave properly, remain firm and loyal to the party, and to fully abide by the party charter.

4. No convention delegate should be caught off guard by phone calls from people who are not legitimate authorities of this party.
5. The future of the Liberal Party of Honduras is in the hands of the convention delegates, who upon being elected by their respective municipalities, represent the Liberal people.
6. Convention delegates are instructed to remain alert to further guidelines which will be issued in the next few days.

Tegucigalpa, 30 March, Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras.

[Fausto Castillo Suazo] We wish to thank the distinguished members of the news media who are here. We invite you all to be with us from 11 to 14 April in Comayagua, where previously appointed commissions are taking care of all the details to prepare for the convention, which like all Liberal Party events will be a grandiose event. We will greet all the convention delegates there, because we are sure they will all attend. Once again, I wish to thank the members of the news media on behalf of the Central Executive Council. Thank you very much.

Bu Giron Letter to Gen Lopez

PA010245 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0030 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Saturday, a commission of the National Congress delivered to General Walter Lopez Reyes, Armed Forces commander in chief, a letter informing him about the integration of the judicial branch. The commission was composed of Deputies Nicolas Cruz Torres, Romualdo Bueso Penalba, (Oscar Alvarez Duran), and Elias J. Cali. This is the letter delivered to the Armed Forces chief:

Mr Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Brigadier Gen Walter Lopez Reyes. In your hands.

Mr Commander: In the session held on 29 March, the National Congress, using Article No 205, Section 9, of the Constitution as a basis, reorganized the honorable Supreme Court.

This reorganization took place in view of charges of corruption and violation of the Constitution and the laws against the former members of that branch of the state by professional, labor, enterprise, and educational sectors as well as by some of the people. A commission appointed by Congress investigated the administration of justice and presented to a plenary meeting a report containing much evidence against the activities of the judicial branch. We were surprised to know about a letter sent by the president of the Republic to your headquarters asking for your intervention to prevent the new justices of the Supreme Court, who were elected by this Congress, from exercising their function. In recent hours the Honduran people were surprised by the arrest of Ramon Valladares Soto, the elected president of the Supreme Court; by the attempt to arrest Permanent Justice Miguel Angel Rivera; who is also president of the Honduran Bar Association, and by the persecution of the other members of the Supreme Court by state security bodies. In line with the Constitution of the Republic, Honduras is a de jure sovereign state constituted as a free, democratic, and independent Republic that allows the citizens to enjoy justice. It is on the basis of this precept that the National Congress has the unavoidable obligation to make sure there is a proper administration of justice.

We do not have any other motivation. We believe that a proper administration of justice is a keystone for safeguarding social peace.

In line with Article 218, Section 1, of the Constitution, elections of this nature fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the National Congress. For these reasons, we ask the Armed Forces, through you, to guarantee compliance with what has been agreed on by this state branch and guarantee that the newly elected justices will exercise their functions.

This is signed: Respectfully yours, J. Efraim Bu Giron, chairman of the sovereign National Congress

Gen Lopez Rules Out Coup

PA011356 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1224 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Interview with General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by Gustavo Rubi on 31 March in La Paz -- recorded]

[Text] [Rubi] General, what are your views concerning the events that are keeping Hondurans in a tense situation?

[Lopez Reyes] Naturally, we are somewhat concerned about the political developments. However, we are confident that good sense will prevail and that all those involved in the problem will resolve it in the best possible way. The interests of Honduras come first and that should be our priority.

[Rubi] What is your message to the Honduran people?

[Lopez Reyes] We rarely intervene in politics. However, we want what is best for our people. Right now it is best to remain sensible, because there are greater threats against Honduras. Therefore, all Hondurans must make a special effort to resolve this controversy through dialogue.

[Rubi] General, are you saying that Hondurans must resolve their problems among themselves to prevent people from abroad coming to [word indistinct] this country?

[Lopez Reyes] Most definitely. Honduras' image was distorted for a long time. Subsequently, there was a time when advancement could be seen in all areas. The current situation could create something worse. We have seen this reported in dispatches sent abroad, and that is not the reality. We must understand that Honduras needs its best sons at the most difficult times. The best thing we can do as civilized and educated Hondurans is to hold a dialogue. This is always the best weapon with which to face and solve problems.

[Rubi] Does this mean that the Armed Forces are alert but not disturbed?

[Lopez Reyes] Exactly. Yesterday there were reports that we were on alert. Naturally, this responds to geopolitical developments. However, in no way have we interrupted training. On the contrary, we continue to train, even more decisively.

We believe in this way we fulfill our mission of safeguarding our country's interests, by protecting our territory. Naturally, if called upon and as our constitutional duty, we will maintain order if it is indeed disrupted.

[Rubi] General, yesterday, or today, large contingents of U.S. troops arrived in Honduras to take part "Big Pine III".

[Lopez Reyes] That is correct. The "Big Pine III" drills have been planned since last year. Because it is a large-scale exercise, it takes a long time to plan. However, there will only be two maneuvers: "Scorpion," in southern Honduras, in Yoro, and the other, which is very different. One is an anti-tank maneuver and the other is a counterinsurgency maneuver. The exercise provides us with basic ideas which train us to face both kinds of threats.

[Rubi] General, a last question: Do you support President Roberto Suazo Cordova?

[Lopez Reyes] Usually we decline to offer support to any given person. However, in this case, we are referring to the president of the Republic. The Constitution is our guide. As defenders of the Constitution, as professionals of the Armed Forces with established missions and goals, we can say that we will abide by the laws and the Constitution. This way we are giving the government the legitimate protection it requires.

As you know, the ambassadors who are accredited to our government, can interpret this situation adversely. It has been reported abroad that the possibility of a coup d'etat exists. We have denied this, and we must frankly state that that will not happen.

Liberals Support Bu Giron

PA011712 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1555 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] The Central Executive Committee of the Honduran Liberal Party, duly elected at the great convention of April 1983, states to the Honduran people in general, and especially to Liberals, that:

1. In these trying moments for Honduras we will remain faithful to the Constitution, obeying our ideals of peaceful coexistence among all Hondurans and also faithful to the Honduran Liberal Party's doctrines as a clear and affirmative expression of a true democracy.
2. We will maintain the democratic ideals that gave birth to this constitutional government.
3. We support the straightforward, firm, and patriotic attitude assumed by Efraim Bu Giron, president of the National Congress. He seeks only to safeguard the people's interests, assuring the correct and efficient implementation of justice.
4. We firmly and categorically reject the arbitrary arrest of the President of the Supreme Court of Justice Ramon Valladares Soto and other magistrates elected by the people's sovereign will manifested through its highest body, the National Congress, and sworn in on Thursday. [as heard]
5. We hold responsible the material and intellectual perpetrators of these shameful deeds for casting shadows on the Republic's peace and endangering the democratic principles of our ideology.

6. In these tragic moments for democracy we ask Liberals to remain on a state of alert and to express solidarity with the legitimate authorities who will remain, by all means available, faithful to the principles of the great Honduran Liberal Party in fulfilling its statutes.

[Signed] Tegucigalpa 29 March, Romualdo Bueso Penalba, president; Pompilio Romero Martinez, secretary general; Jose Azcona Hoyos, political secretary; Rodrigo Castillo Aguilar, youth, worker and peasant affairs secretary; Oscar Alvarez, assistant secretary

Bu Giron on Charges, Pretrial

PA011839 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1636 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Telephone interview with Efraim Bu Giron, National Congress president, by Guillermo Castellanos at the National Congress building in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] [Castellanos] What information do you have about a last-minute report by Noticiero El Minuto this morning that all the deputies who agreed with the reorganization of the Supreme Court will be put in prison as prescribed by the law?

[Bu Giron] We have been told that a pretrial is under way at the First Criminal Court. It is not strange because unexplainable incidents are occurring. They want to make us look like criminals who want justice to improve in this country [as heard]. I believe that our intention has been very well defined. We want to improve justice in order to have social peace. You, as a reporter, know of the daily demands made by various sectors of the country due to the serious errors, deficiencies, inabilities, and who knows what that was becoming apparent in the judicial branch. In the face of this situation, we, as the people's representatives, reacted to reorganize the court to make it a court that guarantees a good public administration. However, there is a turnabout in values in this country and those of us who tried to improve justice are going to be victims of an injustice. But we don't care about that because we know that we are fighting for a just cause. We know that the Honduran people are with us. It is very possible that they will try to dissolve the National Congress and call the alternate deputies to convene in order to have a majority and to go through with the trial. We are going to demand that this pretrial be brought to Congress as soon as possible with the speed usually taken by the Supreme Court justices to deal with matters that concern Congress exclusively, and that somehow affect them in their duties so that they can continue doing what they have always been doing.

I feel that the sectors responsible for the government, the country, the private sector, the labor sector, and the people in general must raise their voices against these arbitrary actions which they intend to carry out. It is not that we are afraid of going to jail. No. We know that we are involved in a civic struggle and that in a country where no progress has been made, where politics are handled in a personal way, and where the administration has stepped outside the law, that and much more can happen.

[Castellanos] We understand that according to the procedure to try a Congress member, first a pretrial procedure must be followed to issue an arrest warrant for the alleged defendants.

[Bu Giron] No arrest warrant can be issued unless Congress itself declares that the deputies can be tried. But, you see, if we have a majority...

[Castellanos, interrupting] That's what we meant, until all the pretrial is followed. What does the pretrial truly cover then?

[Bu Giron] The pretrial involves the steps taken at the criminal court. These cases go to the Supreme Court and in turn, it passes them to the Government and Justice Secretariat and that secretariat sends them to Congress. But you must realize that the congressional majority is on the side of the defendants. Therefore, unless they carry out a maneuver to change that majority by bringing their alternates together with the government deputies, then they could declare that a trial can be conducted. Of course, it would imply that it would be a corrupt process. They are trying to do here what they did with the Central Executive Council: They reorganized it and replaced the main members with alternates. But in this case, they would be doing irreparable damage to the Republic and the republican system of government. They would be placing us in an embarrassing situation at the national and international level. I don't think that this will happen though. I think that the president must use this authority because I understand that there are certain executive branch officials who want this pretrial.

[Castellanos] We understand that you, as responsible men and deputies who represent the Honduran people, will remain here at Congress to cope with any responsibilities or situations which may emerge just as (Ines Ravalo), (Cinar Navarro), Ramiro Carvajal, and Policarpo Bonilla did on another historic occasion.

[Bu Giron] Policarpo Bonilla is immortal in the history of the Honduran Liberal Party because of his stand as an honest and responsible man and because he helped draft one of the best constitutions the country has ever had.

[Castellanos] Regarding this incident in our history, then we understand that all the steps required in these cases were not taken but that these three [as heard] very honorable deputies were escorted to prison.

[Bu Giron] There were not only three deputies, there were several. However, the result is the same. When there is no impartiality in the administration of justice the result is the same. When there is no guarantee in justice, it makes no difference if they beat and arrest the deputies just as was done back then by General Manuel Bonilla. However, we are willing to face any...

[Castellanos, interrupting] The chief of the military group that escorted them was Lee Christmas, an American...

[Bu Giron, interrupting] Yes, but now they will not find a Lee Christmas who will lend himself to such actions.

[Castellanos] For the first time in Honduran history we have had such a spectacular case. Perhaps it would even be the first time in the parliamentary history of Latin America and the world that 50 some deputies would be put in jail.

[Bu Giron] Perhaps it would be a record for this government, which is committing so many arbitrary actions. For this reason I have urged the president to be understanding, because I believe he is being ill-advised.

[Castellanos] In view of this situation, do you plan to address the Honduran people to explain to them the country's real situation?

[Bu Giron] We will be in permanent contact with the Honduran people to explain our truth to them.

Addresses Congress on Charges

PA011918 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1756 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Address by Congress President Efraim Bu Giron to the National Congress in response to a Government and Justice Secretariat document on charges to be filed against the 53 deputies who voted to restructure the Supreme Court of Justice -- live]

[Text] I will ask you to display the utmost serenity to endure this unusual outrage by the public branch of power [poder publico] against the first branch of the state. I will ask you to hear this with the conviction of citizens who are fighting so there will be true justice in Honduras, so justice will shine in order to guarantee peace in a geopolitical area agitated by violence. We do not advocate violence. We do not seek to destabilize the regime elected in free and honest elections. But we do intend to make that regime conduct its last months in office along the path of legality, because where respect for the law is lost everything is lost. You can be sure that the Honduran people, the Central American peoples participating in democratic regimes, and the world's peoples and parliaments are with us at this moment.

Messrs Deputies: This will go down in history, and history will decide who among us has acted in defense of the laws of the Republic and who is trying to destabilize the regime in order to continue a de facto administration. Messrs Deputies: As this is a matter of the utmost importance, I will appoint Honorable Deputies Orlando Gomez Cisneros, Oscar Alvarez Duron, Pompilio Romero Martinez, Marco Antonio Paguada, Valentin Aguilar, Jacobo Hernandez Cruz, and Mario Rivera Lopez to immediately study this document. We will suspend the session for a maximum period of 1 hour. The session is suspended, to be continued in a 1 hour, when you will receive a report on this communique submitted to us by the deputy government and justice secretary. The session is suspended now.

ALIPO President's Statement

PA020009 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2044 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Statement by Jorge Bueso Arias, president of the People's Liberal Alliance [ALIPO]; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] Interpreting the sentiments of the Honduran people and Liberals at this historic moment when political chaos is threatening to destroy Honduras' democratic and republican institutions, and having the moral authority derived from permanent responsible and patriotic behavior, ALIPO fulfills its obligations to inform the nation, the representatives of the state branches and the political, economic, and social forces of the country, about its position regarding the serious confrontation among the executive, judicial, and legislative branches. ALIPO believes that this national crisis weakens our system and threatens to provoke national disintegration. This is our direct consequence of the violation of the principle of the people's sovereignty, which is established in the Republic's Constitution. This persisting violation of the law has produced an authoritarian, egotistical, and capricious regime that is completely opposed to the will the voters expressed in 1980 and 1981.

This regime is becoming increasingly involved in a corrupt administration of justice, something that makes possible the arbitrary meddling of the government in the internal affairs of political institutions and in every aspect of the national life. This judicial insecurity seriously affects the harmonious relations that should exist between the government and the governed. It negatively affects Honduras' economic and social development. It has divided the nation and it is promoting further illegal and immoral political practices. It has degraded the electoral process, obstructed the people's sovereign right to elect the authorities and the candidates of the political parties, and makes use of a gang that acts behind the people's back.

The president of the Republic is a servant of the nation, of all the Hondurans. This is why we respect a president. However, the president has often preferred to act as general coordinator of the Rodist Liberal Movement and not as president of the Republic. This goes against the letter and the spirit of the Constitution. He has created this conflict because he has stubbornly decided to impose on the Liberal Party and on all the Honduran people the interests and the whims of the political faction that he coordinates instead of looking after the interests of the nation and of all the Hondurans, as he should. With his biased actions in favor of a minority, he has been degrading his high post and compromising his noble role as arbiter in conflictive national situations. The current situation requires calm, unselfish, and patriotic behavior, which would be respected and accepted by all the sectors of the country.

At the beginning, the president's behavior led to the separation of ALIPO from activities and decisionmaking participation in the Liberal Party. He extended his somber influence to the other political parties, and he ended up venting his anger with the Rodist Liberal Movement. All this has derived in this traumatic and irrational conflict among the state branches. This confrontation, which in many aspects has no precedents in our history, has taken on the look of institutional suicide. Immediate action is required to prevent this. The first outbreaks of violence have taken place. There is the arrest of Ramon Valladares, president of the recently restructured Supreme Court, and the warrants for the arrest of the justices elected and sworn in by the National Congress under the absurd charge of treason against the fatherland, in total disregard for the immunity to which the justices are entitled. Now, touching on the limits of irrationality, an effort is being made to declare that the deputies who voted to restructure the Supreme Court are liable to face suit.

ALIPO believes -- on the basis of the law, the principles of justice, and the Liberal doctrine -- that the National Congress is the only state branch that represents all the valid votes cast by the Honduran voters and has the authority to supervise and to correct any abuse committed by the other branches. Any action defying the authority of the legislative assembly is a demonstration of arrogance and lack of interest on how abuses must be corrected in a democratic regime.

This could be the beginning of the end of republican institutionality and a serious threat to representative and pluralist democracy. The president of the Republic, in disobeying the National Congress decision to elect new justices and in supporting the justices of the deposed Supreme Court of Justice, who have definitely lost the trust of the deputies who elected them, may be violating the Constitution. Therefore he could be liable to face legal procedures initiated by the legislative assembly if he does not abandon his attitude and insists in his defiant position.

During the process of democratic institutionalization in Honduras, ALIPO has maintained its position that the only valid way to achieve social peace, the unity and integration of the Honduran people and a stable democracy, is the direct participation of the people in choosing the authorities and the candidates of the political parties through domestic elections directed and controlled by the National Electoral Tribunal. In view of recent events, ALIPO confirms that position, now more than ever. If procedures defined in the electoral legislation had been fully complied with, the state, constitutionality, and electoral process would not be facing the abyss they currently face.

Leaders, politicians, and officials have the obligation to renounce arrogance and egoism to strengthen the democratic system. They must accept with republican humility the urgent need to resort to the first and irreplaceable source of power: the people. It is only in the people that we will find political, economic, and social stability. They are the affirmation and inspiration for true national dialogue, the essence of dignity, and represent the unity necessary for Honduras to achieve greatness. With patriotic fervor and profound trust in the Honduran people, ALIPO states its concern over the current situation. After careful thinking, ALIPO proposes a practical solution to this serious conflict, which cannot last much longer without seriously harming our country and people.

The application of the solution we will now outline requires unselfishness, patriotism, and understanding from the parties in conflict.

1. Ramon Valladares should be released immediately and arrest warrants for the justices elected and sworn in by the National Congress on 28 March must be voided.
2. For the sake of peace and political and social stability, both the dismissed and the elected justices must resign to calm the conflicting branches and permit a restructuring of the Supreme Court of Justice, in an environment free of unyielding positions, to permit true independence for the judicial branch. The resignation of these 10 persons would bring calm to 4 million Hondurans.
3. The president of the Republic must restore to the presidency the duties of arbitration and impartiality that the law and national interest demand. He should therefore resign from his post as general coordinator of the Rodist Liberal Movement, thus satisfying the expectations of the majority of Hondurans.
4. The National Congress should approve as soon as possible reforms to the electoral law and the law on political organizations to ensure direct, free, and honest participation of the people in domestic elections to choose the authorities and the candidates of political parties. These elections should be directed and controlled by the National Electoral Tribunal in preparation for the general elections in November of this year and for the future of the Honduran democratic system.

ALIPO will fulfill its obligation to contribute to the solution of the crisis and to national harmony. ALIPO is sure that in this matter it has the support of the Honduran people, whom this organization has always trusted, for whose freedom it has always struggled, and whom we see as the only force that can morally and legitimately correct the mistakes of the national leaders. Thank you.

Liberals Respond to ALIPO

PA020050 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2245 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Statement issued by the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras on 1 April in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] As the highest authority of the Liberal Party of Honduras, PLH, the Central Executive Council, with the party convention in recess, and in full civic and patriotic responsibility, appears before the Honduran people to express its stance regarding the statement made by ALIPO on the crisis created by the violation of the Constitution by a group of Liberal deputies in connivance with 30 deputies of the National Party of Honduras, PNH. This action has harmed the national institutions in the following manner:

1. Pleading its high moral responsibility, the ALIPO irresponsibly described as a political crisis what even those not versed in legal matters understand to be a legal crisis provoked by the flagrant violation of Articles 4, 304, 305, and 309 of the Constitution by a group of Liberal deputies in close and ill-intentioned alliance with 30 PNH deputies, who serve the plans of international communism through sheer ignorance or criminal complicity. The participation of well-known professional agitators in the group of the alleged defenders of justice confirms our statement.
2. The alleged defenders of legality and justice accused the constitutional president of the Republic, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, of frequently violating the law, despite the fact that his earnest efforts to maintain the constitutional and democratic regime that was elected by the people in free, fair, and honest elections guaranteed by the Honduran Armed Forces are well-known, both here and abroad.
3. These ALIPO gentlemen who today demand direct elections for the formation of the party's higher organizations and the choosing of candidates for positions to be attained through elections are the same ones who appeared before [former] Head of State General Melgar Castro to ask him to include in the electoral and political organizations law the principle of proportional representation, the scope and contents of which they themselves today question with childish arguments. It would be good for them to explain to the Liberals how they thought and acted when they controlled the seals and never the party majority.
4. The ALIPO cherubim state that President Suazo is more of a Rodist coordinator than president of the Hondurans. Dr Suazo Cordova is both president and coordinator general of the Rodist Liberal Movement, due, precisely, to the Honduran people in the first place and to the Rodist in the second. In the latter case, the national assembly of the Liberal Rodist Movement, during a meeting in Valle Grande de Francisco Morazan in the presence of, among others lawyer Luis Giron, Col Penso Martinez, Professor Bueso Penalba, engineer Ascona Hoyos, and Zoilo Arias, elected Suazo for this honorable responsibility which he will continue to carry out even though ALIPO and the Christian Democrats do not like it. The two seem to be ideologically identical.
5. The solutions proposed by ALIPO through the voice of Jorge Bueso Arias were also simplistic and illogical. Lawyer Ramon Valladares Soto faces a trial that has been initiated legally at the tribunals.

A similar situation is faced by the alleged justices elected by the National Congress in violation of the Constitution. Out of respect for law and justice, those indicted will be able to defend themselves at the courts with all the guarantees accorded them by the Constitution and bylaws, but the trial will not be suspended in any manner whatsoever, for to do so would be a violation of law.

6. The president of the Supreme Court and the justices who were constitutionally elected will not resign. Their duty is to carry out the mandate granted them by the sovereign National Congress. The PLH Central Executive Council, on behalf of hundreds of thousands of fellow party members throughout the nation, reiterates its permanent support for President Suazo Cordova and the one and only genuine Supreme Court.

Tegucigalpa, 1 April; Signed: Juan de la Cruz Avelar Leiva, chairman of the PLH Central Executive Council

PINU, PDCH Statement

PA012202 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2056 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Statement issued by the Christian Democratic Party of Honduras [PDCH] and the Innovation and Unity Party [PINU]; read by PINU Deputy Miguel Andonie Fernandez -- live]

[Text] The PDCH and the PINU have united at this moment of national pain to continue calling our fellow deputies and all government officials who have participated in these shameful events back to order. We believe that what happened today in Congress has made the national situation worse and for this reason, I and Companeros Diaz Arrivillaga and Matamoros Turcio prepared an emergency motion. Unfortunately, as you have witnessed, the chairman of Congress suspended the session in spite of the fact that we had requested the floor. We want the Honduran people to know what the position of the PDCH and PINU is in this regard. I believe that all able citizens should make efforts to see if it is possible to find a political solution to the problem because while it is true that the judicial aspect has had a powerful influence on what has happened, the truth is that the political aspect has had a greater influence. We believe that the actors in this unfortunate show are being stubborn and a voice of prudence is necessary. This is what we wanted to present with our motion, which we will introduce at the first opportunity. This is a text of the motion:

1. That the National Congress should appoint the undersigned to a commission to initiate urgent steps aimed at finding a solution to the judicial-political problem that has involved the three branches of the state. That this commission be authorized to try to include in its membership the top representatives of institutions such as the Catholic Church, the National Autonomous University of Honduras, the Confederation of Honduran Workers, the General Central Organization of Workers of Honduras, and the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise.

2. That to contribute to this, this chamber should postpone the discussions on this serious matter that is affecting national calm and is deteriorating Honduras' international image and seriously endangering our nation's institutions.

Signed: Efraim Diaz Arrivillaga, Carlos H. Matamoros Turcio, and Miguel Andonie Fernandez

As you can see, Mr Journalists, this motion has been signed by the three deputies who were representing the two new parties in today's congressional session. We have called for including us in that commission because we are the only deputies who have not been directly involved in this struggle that is being unleashed inside the two parties, and also with the three branches of the state. For this reason we had to set modesty somewhat aside and include ourselves and the conciliatory spirit that inspired the motion.

Colonel Visits Jailed Valladares

PA012332 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2110 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Interview with Colonel Marcelino Ponce Martinez, first presidential designate, at the central penitentiary on 1 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is the purpose of your visit to the central penitentiary?

[Ponce Martinez] The main purpose of my visit to the central renitentiary is to pay a friendly visit to my highly esteemed friend, lawyer Ramon Valladres, being held here for totally unjustified reasons. He is a highly respected lawyer. We worked together in the administration of Dr Ramon Villeda Morales, when he was government minister and I was director of the Civil Guard. At that time I knew him well, and I know he is an honest and upright man.

[Reporter] How do you see the problem Ramon Valladares is facing at this moment, being charged with high treason?

[Ponce Martinez] I would say that Dr Valladares is the victim of one of the most cruel abuses of this administration. I can find no another definition for it, knowing the type of man lawyer Valladares is. However, you may rest assured that there is a divine law based on justice, and that justice will prevail in this case.

[Reporter] Colonel, who is responsible for the abuses to which you refer?

[Ponce Martinez] I think you know the answer very well, and there is no need for me to mention it at this difficult time. The situation is most delicate. I think that all Hondurans, rather than stir the fire, should try to extinguish it to achieve the unity of the Honduran people needed to face our current serious problems.

[Reporter] Could you offer a specific solution to the national conflict?

[Ponce Martinez] No one can predict such a solution at this difficult time; neither you as members of the press nor anyone else. If I knew for sure that a specific person had the solution in his hands, I would not hesitate to announce his name. However, I would in no way help matters by mentioning names; instead, I would probably worsen the situation. Let us hope that the course of events will permit us to see the situation more clearly, and then perhaps we can offer suggestions leading to the resolution of the issue.

[Reporter] Concerning the latest developments, is there any possibility that you may be called to assume the presidency of the country?

[Ponce Martinez] I do not believe so. There are three designates, and should the situation demand it, any of the three could be called to do so.

[Reporter] Well, could the situation arise then?

[Ponce Martinez] I cannot give you a specific answer to that question. However, let me tell you this. Throughout this troubled time, I have always said that calm comes after the storm. You can be sure that this will happen.

[Reporter] Do you believe that such calm will come before the April convention?

[Ponce Martinez] I believe so.

53 Deputies Charged With Treason

PA020159 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0129 GMT 2 Apr 85

[Report by Jorge Alberto Diaz Castillo]

[Text] We are at the city courts, where (Daniel Boquin), secretary of the First Criminal Court has just confirmed that 53 congressmen will be tried at the First Instance Court in this jurisdiction. These congressmen have been charged with treason to their fatherland and carrying out actions against the Honduran Government. I repeat: the secretary of the First Instance Criminal Court has just confirmed to Radio America that 53 congressmen will be tried at the First Instance Court in this capital. These congressmen, including members of the Liberal and National Parties, have been charged with carrying out actions against the Honduran Government system, and treason to their fatherland.

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT WELCOMING CEREMONY

PA010301 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0017 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Speech by Colombian President Belisario Betancur during a welcoming ceremony at the Palmerola Air Force base near La Paz -- live]

[Text] Mr President Dr Suazo Cordova, ministers of the government, officials, members of the military high command, members of the Colombian community Honduran citizens:

I have to sincerely confess the emotion that overcomes me at this moment. The president's words, the fact that the government is represented at this reception, the beautiful strains of the Honduran national anthem joined with the beautiful strains of my homeland's national anthem, and the eloquent and sincere message delivered by the Honduran president make me and my companions feel grateful in this earnest search for peace in Central America. Mr President, it is auspicious that this new, pleasant, and worthy meeting between the presidents of Honduras and Colombia is taking place at your birthplace, which is named La Paz [peace].

It has been said many times and you have repeated it with beautiful and brilliant words, Mr President, that the search for peace should also be a search for worthy conditions for our peoples.

Peace is not just an absence of war. Peace is fullness of spirit and man's potential. Man has been endowed by God with the ability to develop worthy living conditions, represented by schools, health centers, water and sewage systems, housing, jobs, and roads. All these have always been part of the significance, depth, and contents of peace.

The Central American region will only fully attain this peace when, as you have accurately indicated, representatives and pluralistic governments express the firm will of our peoples.

I come from Colombia, a country where freedom and democracy prevail. Our sole government is expressed by the Constitution and bylaws. Our Constitution is almost a hundred years old. This indicated the Colombians' continuity of thought and their law-abiding stance. I come from a country where respect for man's worth is paralleled by our respect for the other man's rights.

Mr President, Ministers, for many years my homeland has been broken apart by an absurd internal conflict. Some day God will be honored and praised when we find the source for peace. In agreement with political organizations and the freely elected Colombian parliament, we have drafted formulas that have brought us nearer to peace.

Yesterday, one of the most important guerrilla organizations with which we signed peace accords about 1 year ago decided to organize a political party to express its desires for a change through constitutional and legal mechanisms. When our unsatisfied peoples --sometimes due to their frustrated desires and their fair desires for social justice -- discover that through legal means and respect for law, they can find adequate answers to their just demands, peace will have prevailed in Latin America and, specifically, in Central America.

Mr President, this peace mission is based on man's worthiness, on the worthiness of the Latin American and Central American man. According to philosophical postulates, this mission is in accord with this Christian respect for the worthiness of man because today the Holy Week begins for our people, who are full of devotion and hope in the eternal life.

Mr President, Ministers, members of the military high command, members of the Armed Forces, I and the members of my retinue respectfully consider Honduras' reality. We respect a free people, a people that have freely established its institutions, a people who seek and long for peace, who want to drink of this peace.

Mr President, may I also speak this confidence aloud? I can't deny that to see a small and delicate Colombian flag fly in the hands of my fellow Colombians makes me see clearly how beautiful and expressive a flag is. The beautiful and expressive Honduran flag bound with Colombia's tricolored flag. Mr President, a flag is something more than a piece of cloth and wood. When the pieces of cloth and wood are bound together, a flag becomes a prayer. A flag is an anthem of hope. A flag is also a proclamation, a song for peace.

Mr President, on behalf of my homeland, my companions and myself, may I ask you to transmit our respectful greetings to all Hondurans, the members of your government, the members of the Armed Forces, all the high-ranking members of the Honduran Government, your family. At the same time, may we open our arms to embrace you as someone who embraces, as you have just expressed it, Mr President, his brother. We are brothers in the same dreams, the same longing for peace, the same ambitions to see Latin America and Central America united in a single purpose: to develop in peace for the justice of our peoples, to develop in peace and justice. Thank you very much, Mr President.

Press Communique

PA011645 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0410 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Press communique issued by the Presidency on the visit by Colombian President Belisario Betancur on 31 March]

[Text] At the invitation of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, His Excellency, Colombian President Belisario Betancur visited La Paz, La Paz Department on 31 March 1985. The two presidents held a fruitful and cordial exchange of views on topics of common interest and especially those that concern the peace and security of Central America. They reaffirmed the links of fraternal friendship that have traditionally united the Colombian and Honduran peoples and the excellent relations that exist between their respective governments. They reiterated their faith on pluralistic and participatory democracy as a system of government as well as the validity of the principles of nonintervention in the affairs of other states. They condemned violence and terrorism in all its forms and they expressed their conviction that there is no controversy that cannot be solved through the peaceful means established by law.

They agreed on the need to reestablish and maintain peace in Central America and that this objective can be achieved within the forum provided by the Contadora Group. To this effect, the Honduran president reiterated his government's support for the Contadora process and its firm determination to continue to actively participate in the negotiations that will lead to the conclusion of an international instrument that will be legally binding and verifiable.

The two presidents agreed that to achieve the high objectives it seeks, such an instrument must in an overall and simultaneous manner contemplate the solution to the political, economic, social, and security problems that affect Central America and that it must have a climate of justice and freedom as a premise. They again expressed that it is up to the Central Americans to decide the destiny of Central America and, therefore, the interference of extraregional and extracontinental countries must be prevented in the area. President Betancur expressed thanks for the attention he received from President Suazo Cordova during his stay in Honduras. La Paz, 31 March

NICARAGUACOLOMBIAN PRESIDENT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONTADORA

FL011234 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today expressed optimism about the Contadora Group being close to reaching a global solution to the Central American problem. During the tour Betancur is making throughout the Contadora Group's Central American countries and the United States, Betancur said the resumption of the Manzanillo talks in Mexico between Nicaragua and the United States could have pragmatic and healthy results which would complement the Contadora Group's efforts.

After meeting here with his Nicaraguan counterpart Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, the South American head of state said that the Contadora Group has been studying the views recently presented by the Central American countries.

He added that, personally, he believes the Contadora Document, initially accepted by Nicaragua and still supported by this country, could be modified somewhat without affecting its main content. Betancur also said that the Contadora Group representatives will meet during the latter part of next month as part of the preparations for the representatives meeting. He indicated he will take to the United States ideas of substance about the Latin American reality, specifically about the Central American situation. After meeting with his Nicaraguan counterpart for 1 hour and 34 minutes, Betancur left a little after 1700 hours for El Salvador, the next stop of his tour which will end in the United States.

D'ESCOTO PROTEST NOTE TO SHULTZ ON U.S. MANEUVERS

PA282210 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Mar 85 p 4

[Protest note from Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz dated 28 March in Managua]

[Text] Mr Secretary of State:

I address Your Excellency for the purpose of referring to the announcement of new, large-scale military maneuvers to be held jointly in Honduran territory by the U.S. and Honduran Armed Forces. This represents a new show of the policy of force and intimidation promoted by the U.S. Government and will serve to introduce greater and more serious tension and anxiety in the area. Furthermore, it will negatively affect the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and, consequently, the possibilities of reestablishing a just and lasting peace in Central America.

In accordance with public reports available, the announced "Universal Trek-85" maneuvers to be held between 12-27 April will coincide with the "Big Pine III" military exercises, and with about 12,000 U.S. soldiers stationed in Honduran territory, will entail the largest foreign military presence in the region in recent times.

During the "Universal Trek-85" military maneuvers, an amphibious landing will be made at Puerto Castilla, Honduras, with support from a frigate and a guided missile cruiser accompanied by an air assault force belonging to the 101st Airborne Division and the "Cobra" type attack helicopters. I must underscore that these maneuvers will take place at a time when the U.S. Government is conducting an intensive propaganda campaign aimed at obtaining approval from the U.S. Congress for new funds in order to continue promoting the war of aggression that it has imposed on the Nicaraguan people for over 4 years. This has already cost my country over 8,000 victims and considerable physical damages and is in flagrant violation of international law and the ruling issued on 10 May 1984 by the International Court of Justice.

The critical situation prevailing in the area will be dangerously worsened by this enormous U.S. military presence which, when added to the U.S. Government's refusal to continue the proceedings promoted by Nicaragua at the International Court of Justice and to resume the bilateral talks with Nicaragua as well as the blocking of the Contadora Group and the expansion of the war of aggression against my country, make up a dramatic picture that brings the possibility of direct intervention against Nicaragua dangerously near.

This could, in turn, lead to the outbreak of a generalized war in the area with unforeseeable consequences for regional and world peace and security.

In addition, it must be stressed that the "Universal Trek-85" exercises will take place at the same time the Contadora Group will be meeting with Central American representatives in Panama City on 11 and 12 April for the purpose of paving the way for a prompt signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America.

Once again, this indicates that the U.S. Government is maintaining a "virtual blockade" against the peace efforts sponsored by the Contadora Group. This policy has been publicly acknowledged in the U.S. Security Council document dated 30 October 1984. For this reason, these military exercises constitute an additional obstacle to the peace efforts of Contadora Group and hamper the detente needed to obtain the proper conditions for dialogue and political willingness for peace.

Furthermore, it is worth pointing out that the joint military exercises currently being held in Central America constitute a categorical rejection of the document of objectives signed by Central American countries in the framework of the diplomatic efforts of the Contadora Group. This document bans all foreign military interference, just as the Contadora Document proposal of 7 September bans all international military exercises.

In presenting its formal and strong protest against these military exercises -- which are aimed at further hampering all existing mechanisms for a dialogue and particularly at frustrating the meeting convoked by the Contadora Group and intimidating and coercing Nicaragua, as well as at increasing the logistic and military support for the mercenary forces in the service of the U.S. Government -- the Nicaraguan Government urgently appeals to the U.S. Administration to abandon, once and for all, its policy of force and imposition toward the region and come to a sincere, direct dialogue with Nicaragua. This will make possible a return to normal relations between the two states and will facilitate regional understanding and conciliation for a prompt and effective peace in Central America. For this, respect for international legal order is indispensable.

Sincerely yours, Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister

PCD SUPPORTS NOTE TO U.S. CONGRESS ON CONTRA AID

PA281705 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 85

[Text] Managua -- Nicaraguan political parties today supported the request by 10 U.S. churches to the U.S. Congress that no more aid be sent to the CIA-backed counter-revolutionary groups. The Democratic Conservative Party, PCD, the second-largest electoral force in Nicaragua, endorsed the request and demanded that President Reagan, instead of sending financial aid to the counterrevolutionary organizations to attack Nicaragua, send those funds to the civic-minded parties.

In a statement to ANN, PCD National Coordinator Eduardo Molina said that just as the National Endowment for Democracy donated \$100,000 to LA PRENSA and another sum to the rightist Democratic Coordinating Board, Reagan should channel funds to the Conservatives, independent Liberals, and the popular Social Christian movement.

We are engaged in a civic struggle to overthrow the FSLN not by military means, but through democratization, in which conservatives, Sardinists, and other political sectors can participate, Molina said.

The opposition Popular Social Christian Party, through its ideologist Luis Humberto Guzman, also supported the request by the U.S. churches, describing the step as a worthy recommendation to prevent war in Nicaragua.

CARRION COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH MISURASATA

PA291738 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, first deputy interior minister, has said that no specific agreement was reached with the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] delegation however there was an agreement to meet again on 20 and 21 April. Upon returning to Managua after meeting with Misurasata's Brooklyn Rivera in Bogota, Colombia, Commander Carrion said that a lack of flexibility on the part of that counterrevolutionary group precluded reaching important agreements. He added that despite the inflexibility displayed by Misurasata, the Sandinist government will explore all available possibilities to reach an agreement truly beneficial to the people, particularly on the Atlantic coast.

[Begin recording] [Carrion] Well, we could not reach a specific agreement with the Misurasata delegation. However, we agreed to meet again on 20 and 21 April. Thus far we have encountered little flexibility on the part of Misurasata. This has prevented us from reaching specific agreements. However, we will continue striving; we will continue to make efforts and explore all possibilities until an agreement benefitting the people and the Atlantic coast is reached.

[Reporter] Will the government maintain this stand?

[Carrion] Yes, the Nicaraguan Government has maintained an active struggle for peace in all forums and fronts. We consider this negotiation with Misurasata part of our overall peace effort. In fact, negotiation has already brought about some positive results in the Atlantic area that could turn out to be a great contribution to peace. However, we will continue to strive for peace with the help of everyone wishing to work for the people's welfare. [end recording]

MISURASATA-SICC COMMUNIQUE REJECTS BOGOTA TALKS

PA272244 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Communique issued by the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity-Southern Indigenous Creole Communities, Misurasata-SICC -- date and place not given]

[Text] The FSLN is responsible for the current crisis that is plaguing Misurasata-SICC. The FSLN infiltrated our leadership ranks because it is aware that this leadership is the genuine representative of the indigenous community's interests and because it believes that since we demand respect for our people's historical rights, we are an obstacle to the FSLN's racist and totalitarian plans.

The present situation is comparable to that which occurred in mid-1981. At that time, and taking advantage of the fact that most of Misurasata's leaders were in Honduras, the FSLN promoted, financed, and planned a false assembly at Tuapi aimed at incorporating Misurasata into the FSLN. The move was a failure: no one attended that assembly. This demonstrated that the infiltrated leaders do not represent Nicaragua's Atlantic coast communities. Now, those same false leaders are attempting to manipulate the situation to make Misurasata part of the FSLN. Therefore, we wish to advise Colombian President Belisario Betancur that the individuals who are to participate in the talks that will take place in Bogota are not legitimate representatives of Misurasata-Sicc. Said talks will be held with a small and nonrepresentative group that claims to speak on our people's behalf.

Therefore, they have no validity. We are advising the Colombian president of the situation because we are aware of his good intentions in helping to find a solution to Nicaragua's Indian problem and because we feel compelled to warn him that he is being deceived by individuals who claim to be top leaders of our organization.

Instead of finding just solutions to our demands, the FSLN has begun maneuvers to destroy the authentic indigenous movement and thus advance its plan to exterminate the indigenous population. We will continue to counter this plan with dignity and determination.

Misurasata-Sicc rejects the agreement that certain individuals will soon sign with the FSLN, by virtue of which indigenous communities will allegedly be granted, Marxist-Leninist leading, political autonomy and lands. Beneath their sheepskin lies a long-fanged wolf that is using the original name of our organization, Misurasata, to deceive world public opinion. This is all another maneuver by the Marxist-Leninists who are ill-governing Nicaragua.

The FSLN is seeking a way to save face after submitting our people to 5 years of persecution, death, incarceration, exile, hunger, poverty, and destruction.

[Signed] Joaquin Suazo, Rafael Zelaya, Francisco Walter, Jimmy Emerry, Gailam Gider, Guillermo Espinoza, Yutan Lopez

CASTRO DISCUSSES VARIOUS TOPICS WITH EXCELSIOR

Soviet Military Assistance

FL011458 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 31 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Soviet Union cannot provide military protection to Nicaragua in case of a direct intervention from the United States, Cuban President Fidel Castro has said. According to an interview published today in the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the Soviet Armed Forces do not have the necessary capability for action so far away from their territory, the Cuban head of state said.

Without hundreds of strategic naval bases or aircraft carriers and battleships as the United States has, the Soviet Armed Forces can only take defensive action. They can respond to an attack with a devastating counterblow only with nuclear arms, which are inadequate to support a Central American country under attack, he said. He explained that in the case of a blockade and aggression against a Central American country, Soviet nuclear arms could only be used as a retaliatory action, unleashing a worldwide nuclear war.

He said: I believe that making such a decision is something very serious and one cannot speculate or play with it. In other words, one must think about all these things. I cannot respond, much less give advice about what should be done in a situation such as this.

Commander Castro warned that a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua would be like lighting a match in a gunpowder arsenal. If Nicaragua is surrounded and blockaded, it would be isolated but not helpless, because Nicaragua has its people who are capable of defending their country and their revolution. Nicaragua is prepared, has the means to defend itself, and knows how to do it.

Many other things may happen in the world but they do not stop our peoples from waging the most heroic struggle and bearing the main responsibility of defending our countries, he said. He added it has been demonstrated that this is possible. Vietnam was invaded, attacked, bombarded, and half a million U.S. soldiers landed there; nevertheless, the Vietnamese were capable of defeating those troops. Castro said they did not need Chinese soldiers, or planes, or ships, or strategic missiles, or a world war. They did not want it either. They asked for supplies, but never allowed anyone from outside to fight with them. No one can say what the Chinese would have done, indicated Castro. But the reality is that the Vietnamese always said they felt strong enough to fight on their own. They fought and won.

Now, because of the geographic location, Nicaragua and Cuba could be totally blockaded. It would be a difficult struggle but we have no doubts that by paying a very high price, we would win, and the Latin American gunpowder arsenal could blow up.

Another question could be asked, he said: If you see yourselves blockaded and attacked by the United States and you were told that the price of being helped is a nuclear war, what would you do? We would ponder a lot before giving our answer, he pointed out.

If we only have an elementary sense of responsibility toward mankind, even including our enemies, it is hard to ask for billions of people to sacrifice themselves in this way, he assured. He insisted that it is hard to ask for such a sacrifice. It is more likely that we would want to confront the task and try to solve it ourselves. I believe that with our forces we are sufficiently capable. Of course, no one can predict what kind of complications these types of action would bring about because if any of them takes place in Nicaragua there would be complications.

Doubtlessly, in Cuba they would be much greater because we are willing to die. But we would not like to end the lives of the peoples of other countries, or to ask for the sacrifice of mankind to eliminate our enemies, he said.

Castro stressed that the Contadora Group, composed of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, is the only hope for peace in Central America but that Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras, under pressure, are supporting U.S. demands for the modification of the peace proposal, for the authorization of U.S. military bases and military maneuvers, and for the presence of U.S. troops and advisers in the region.

The obstinate colossus of the North is trying to impose its policies, solve problems with force, and perpetrate genocide.

Economic Crisis

FL012258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 30 Mar 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said the economic crisis and the foreign debt are what will unite the countries of Latin America, much more than they were united by the Falklands war. The solution of these problems is a question of survival for the Latin American countries, the leader of the Cuban revolution said in an interview granted to Regino Diaz, director of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, which was published today by GRANMA.

Fidel mentioned the Great Depression of the 1930's and said the present economic crisis is worse because, with the exception of crude oil, the value of Latin American export products is lower than in the 1930's. We have a worse crisis now, he said, which is also manifested in accumulated social problems and a debt of \$360 billion dollars.

In the interview granted to the director of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Regino Diaz, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said the Latin American countries cannot resist further restrictions and sacrifices. Our top leader presented examples of events that have taken place in recent months in the Dominican Republic and Bolivia, where deep economic crises have occurred for which, he added, no one has a solution.

A little later, Fidel referred to the democratic opening that has taken place in South American countries, an opening which in his opinion has been received with enormous interest and great support, both in Latin America and in the rest of the world. He said such democratic openings have on the one hand made a contribution to the struggle of the peoples, and on the other have contributed to the economic crisis, which it is impossible for the military dictatorships to effectively deal with.

If the problems stemming from the foreign debt are not solved, the democratic processes that have begun in Latin America (?will also end) in crises, Fidel told Regino Diaz, director of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR. He added that the new leaders of these processes have clearly expounded three basic premises to confront the crisis: not to unload the consequences of the debt on the people, avoid the application of recessive policies, and avoid sacrificing the development of their countries. But the question for which no answer has yet been found, our commander in chief said, is the way these premises can be applied if no solution is found to the foreign debt problem.

Fidel underscored the fact that such a debt is unpayable if the whole situation is studied together with each individual case, all of which without exception are grave. I have said that either the foreign debt and the economic crisis have to be solved or there will be a generalized revolutionary social outburst in Latin America, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro warned. He then said he was not making inflammatory or subversive forecasts but, to the contrary, he was analyzing with great serenity what is happening and what is going to happen.

At this point in the interview granted to Regino Diaz, director of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the leader of the Cuban revolution said the independence of the countries of the Third World is more important at this time than social change. He added that independence and the struggle for a new world economic order have become the basic questions for the Latin American nations and other underdeveloped countries.

We consider it of immediate importance to struggle for a new international economic order, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said during the interview granted to Regino Diaz, director of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR. I am absolutely convinced, Castro reiterated, that our next job, our vital, fundamental priority in which everyone can unite and struggle together, is development. He added that the new international economic order should mean trade relations will be fair for all the Third World countries which makes it implicit that the industrialized, rich powers make the sacrifice of wasting fewer resources on arms. It is not fair for them to buy minerals and other raw materials at starvation prices to manufacture weapons and underwrite the "star wars" expenses.

GIRON VICTORY COMMEMORATION BEGINS 1 APRIL

FL291928 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 85

[Text] The Giron Victory Ideological Commemoration will begin on Monday, 1 April. The memory of the glorious days during which the people kept the flags of independence waving high is the inspiration for fighting another new battle on the important economic front. In every factory, on every cooperative, at every place of employment, the struggle should be carried out with resolve and intelligence to guarantee and increase production, especially the production of export products.

Conservation of fuel and energy should accompany this struggle. With the same spirit as at Giron, let us struggle to achieve the maximum quality of the goods produced and increase efficiency and work productivity.

The best homage to the heroes of Giron is to achieve higher levels of organization and quality of service, and to be more demanding in order to use correctly our material and human resources. At the same time as we fight the economic battle, let us prepare ourselves better for defense. Let us defend with tools and guns our decorum, dignity, and the society we have built. As we won at Giron, let us win the people's economic war.

MONTANE PRESIDES OVER CONSERVATION MEETING

FL231756 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] There were important statements made on the topic of savings by the delegates attending the municipal meeting on party report matters in Bejucal municipality, the first one held at this level in Havana Province, which is meeting today presided over by Jesus Montane, alternate Politburo member.

Completing production plans, increasing the work done in recuperating raw materials, repairing spare parts, and intensifying measures on conserving water, fuel, and electricity were topics also brought up by the delegates at the meeting.

[Begin Montane recording -- broadcast in progress] On page four, on the subject of conserving resources, I believe that the report should have discussed this a little more in depth, because it only refers to conserving electricity, fuel, and the production and conservation of spare parts. But this matter has a broader aspect, that of human, financial, and economic resources. I suggest that this topic on conserving should be delved into more deeply, because you already know how much Comrade Fidel has been talking about this recently. [end recording]